FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-207
Thursday
25 October 1990

Daily Report
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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Intensive Consultations' in Summit Preparations

LD2410114690 London KUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct—According to press reports published here today, intensive consultations are taking place among the Arab leaders to ensure participation in the Arab summit conference scheduled for next month.

Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, the AL-WAFD newspaper reports that there have been consultations among Egyptian President Husni Mubarak; Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad; Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The sources described the forthcoming Arab summit conference as the last chance for solving the crisis within an Arab framework.

Quoting the sources, the paper says that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been exerting intensive efforts to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to participate in the summit.

The Arab League Secretariat General is due to begin preparations for the summit at the beginning of November, following its return to Cairo.

Libya Made Member of Arab League Commission

LD2410180690 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, Al-Tomor [October] 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The Arab League Council has chosen Great Al-Jamahiriyah for membership of the higher commission of supervision for three years.

This move came on concluding the 94th session concluded by the council in Tunis at the level of permanent representatives ending yesterday.

This is (?the second) time Great al-Jamahiriyah is selected for the membership of this committeee.

The .ouncil endorsed a number of administrative resolutions including the adoption of the league budget for the year 1991.

Arab League Employees To Begin Transfer 27 Oct

NC2510090890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 25 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports in a front page story that Egypt has addressed a memorandum to the Arab League Secretariat responding to an Algerian memorandum which had asked for the transfer of the Arab League Headquarters to be postponed. At the last meeting of the Arab League to be held in Tunis, the permanent delgates supported the argument presented by Egypt, which was based on the rule that Arab League Council resolutions cannot be suspended in response to proposals. On this premise, Egypt demanded that the transfer of the Secretariat take place at the end of October as scheduled.

The paper adds that the first group of Arab League Secretariat employees will begin returning to Cairo next Saturday [27 October], led by Acting Secretary-General As'ad al-As'ad who will shuttle between Cairo and Tunis to settle compensation for the approximately 250 Tunisian employees who chose to terminate their employment with the Arab League.

Palestinian Affairs

Commentary on Escalation of Intifadah, Effects

JN2410212490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1940 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] While the UN Security Council is confirming its inability to adopt a resolution that maintains its prestige, reputation, and role as an international organization [words indistinct] and its ability to adopt balanced resolutions [words indistinct] we are saying that we should turn to more effective measures to respond to the arrogance of the U.S.-Zionist enemy and to put an end to its crimes, especially the crimes of the Zionist occupation against our Palestinian people in the occupied land. This does not mean that we should leave the UN Security Council in its miserable condition, since we are part of the international community and members of its institutions and agreed-upon frameworks. Saving these institutions, especially the Security Council, from the claws of subservience and evident U.S. hegemony is part of our role and moral, humanitarian, and cultural duty. While pursuing this duty, however, we should be very careful about the U.S. maneuvers which try to drag us into political and diplomatic mazes at the Security Council. The sole objective of these maneuvers is to waste time and obstruct any effort or draft resolution that would define the Palestinian issue, oppose the continuation of the crimes of the Zionist occupiers, and provide international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied land as a step toward a just solution that achieves peace, stability, and security in the region on the basis of achieving all the national Palestinian rights.

In other words, we must not waste all our efforts in the corridors of the UN Security Council. The response to the crimes of the enemy in order to put an end to them and as a further step toward the defeat of the occupation, will be more effective when it becomes a co prehensive, national, clear, and decisive pan-Arab act on the ground to confront the enemy through the language it understands—the language of force and weapons.

The gigantic blessed intifadah has made its decision, and its knights are working to translate this decision into an exceptional, heroic, and very daring and brave confrontation of the occupation soldiers and settlers, who are targets to be liquidated in accordance with the decision of the Unified National Leadership. When this action escalates—it will inevitably do so—it is not ruled out that the Zionist enemy will then hurry to the UN Security Council looking for a resolution, legitimacy, and an international call for halting violence and searching for peace.

Let us here refer to an example which, at first glance, could seem distant from this subject. This news item was published by the Israeli paper 'AL HAMISHMAR yesterday: The Israeli council for foreign relations will for the first time brief the heads of diplomatic missions in Israel on its government's disarmament policy. The invitation to attend the meeting, which was described as closed, was addressed to all ambassadors and senior diplomats in Israel. The paper said this meeting will be the focus of attention in view of the continued crisis in the Arabian Gulf and Saddam Husayn's threats to Israel. Now, what does this news item indicate? The Israeli enemy has always refused even to place its nuclear reactors under the supervision of the International Energy Agency to inspect and supervise the nature of these reactors' operations and products. Many international resolutions have demanded this, but the enemy has always rejected those resolutions. Now for the first time, however, it briefs the world's ambassadors to it on its nuclear disarmament policy. This is only because Iraq has become strong and means what it says, declares, and demands. Naturally, all this is part of the established rules of conflict which we all know and whose profound meaning we all realize.

The UN Security Council will find a justification for balanced resolutions to confront U.S. hegemony and Zionist arrogance when there is an effective Arab force on the ground to confront aggression and to make it very costly for its initiators.

The valiant intifadah, through the heroic escalation for which it has opted, will make the Zionist occupation pay that heavy price, as will Iraq's steadfastness and brave, firm challenge to the concentrations of U.S.-Zionist aggression in the Arabian Peninsula. The decision will be left to the rest of the honorable Arabs to escalate their pan-Arab action through effective siding with Iraq and Palestine and to wage the crucial battle until a great victory is achieved.

Israel Said Trying To Force Palestinians Out

JN2410132890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] believes that Israeli measures and the massacres that are being committed by the occupation forces and the settlers under cover of these measures are an overt attempt to terrorize the Palestinians and force them to leave their lands and homeland.

In a statement issued in Damascus, the PFLP said that the dispatch of international forces to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories has become urgent and most necessary, and cannot suffer any delay.

Algeria

Riots in Tenes Over Semolina, Housing, Employment

Public Buildings Damaged

LD2410200390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Information has been received from security authorities in Tenes administrative district that serious incidents took place in the town yesterday afternoon. Rioting by the residents, who were not happy about the way semolina was distributed, caused damage to public buildings. According to security sources at Tenes administrative district, citizens complained about the insufficient quantity of semolina distributed. They first attacked a selling location which previously belonged to SONTAG, before attacking public buildings.

Security authorities at Tenes administrative district said that the masses were still assembling this morning in front of the offices of the security authority and the district administration. Citizens are also demanding the provision of work for young people and a solution to the housing crisis.

Government Response Detailed

LD2510083790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Following the dangerous incidents in the town of Tenes in the province of Chlaf, security sources in the area said that the disturbances have damaged, in particular, the local authorities' premises, a gas station, and three [word indistinct], in addition to a variety of other losses.

The governor of the province met yesterday with local officials, after which he made a statement in which he covered the points that were considered, which constitute the demands of the demonstrators. The first concerns the improvement of the supply of semolina; the second concerns drinking water; and the third relates to housing.

Regarding the latter, the governor of the province said a local government committee has been set up to supervise the just distribution and [words indistinct] houses.

As for the demand concerning the promotion of the Tenes region into a province, the governor pointed out that this falls within the jurisdiction of the National People's Assembly.

Regarding the issue of youth employment, which remains of concern to local youths, the governor said that, during the coming months, 4,500 jobs will be created in the province and that the Tenes area will benefit from a large share of these.

In concluding his statement, the governor of the province said [words indistinct] problems relating to the release of 20 persons who were arrested following these incidents. He pointed out that such a decision concerns the courts only. [Words indistinct].

Ghazali Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, Palestine

LD2410134390 Algiers APS in English 1124 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, Oct 24 (APS)—"As far as we are concerned, the UNO [United Nations Organization] did not change" nevertheless, the international context witnessed great changes, noted Ghazali, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, in his interview to the daily paper "HORIZONS" Tuesday [23 October].

Answering a question concerning Gulf crisis and Security Council position, since last August, the Algerian minister said that what will prevail hence forward, is large cooperation between either the two super powers or within the United Nations.

Therefore, Ghazali said, the world will throw away the image of two super powers trying to share [word indistinct] decisions and to preserve their equilibrium by resorting to dissuasive tenor. This is how the Algerian minister sees the Gulf crisis in the international political juncture, a crisis, asserted Ghazali, that can not be resolved separately.

Dealing later with various resolutions adopted by the Security Council, Ghazali considers that they are in favour of a clear case in which international legality has been violated. That is the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, then its annexation.

Analysing the reactions of Arab public opinion to [the] UNO position towards the Gulf crisis, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs thinks that Arabs did not forget the numerous decisions of [the] UNO that had been explicitly rejected by Israel. These very Arabs notice that today, the international community did not [word indistinct] so as to impose the fair application of the decisions adopted by the Security Council.

It happens that [the] massacres of al-Quds [Jerusalem] came to remind the world that [the] Palestinian question still exists and to test how credible and sincere is the international community.

The Algerian minister focused later on the capacity of both the UNO and the Arabs.

The [word indistinct] treatment of the Palestinian question has been caused by divisions between Arabs countries which made them weak and incapable. Speaking about "war risks" in the Gulf, Ghazali said no one can doubt about it, the reason is that there are 200,000 soldiers installed there not to mention the European forces. One should understand, he added, that military action among many other options [words indistinct].

Ben Bella on Domestic Issues, Gulf Crisis

JN1010175090 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 8 Oct 90 pp 11-13

[Interview with former President Ahmed Ben Bella by Bashir al-Bakr in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Bakr] What are your first impressions of Algeria, from which you were absent for eight years?

[Ben Bella] There are healthy phenomena, for example, the growth of the mass media, freedom of expression, and political pluralism. These developments bode well. Of course, all this cannot be attributed to a single genius. It is one of the results of the events of 5 October 1988. Another positive phenomenon that should be underscored is that the Algerian people are now paying great attention to daily events in their society. We can say that the spirit has been restored to the body. Evidence of this is the unanimity we see today on the Gulf crisis—a unanimity on a single issue, which has been achieved for the first time since the independence. This, naturally, cannot conceal the economic crisis. I must note here that freedom of expression and other healthy phenomena that have emerged today can never yield their true fruit unless the daily suffering of the people comes to an end.

[Al-Bakr] You were the first Algerian president after independence. There are some who link the timing of your return now with the ambition for another presidency today to lead the reforms. What is your comment?

[Ben Bella] Leadership is not necessarily linked to rule. It could be within the ideological framework and within the atmosphere of the clash of ideas. If the course of the democratic experience continues naturally and Algeria marches forward, and all of this is crowned by legislative elections in the light of political openness, then this is a good sign. I repeat here that it is not necessary for me to become president of the Republic for this to be achieved. I hope things will move in this direction so that the changes toward which we aspire and work will be achieved. However, as I pointed out a short while ago, Algeria is passing through a serious stage that might lead to upheaval. Of course, this is something that I do not wish to see. I would like to see the democratic process continue. I say frankly that I will accept the presidency in one case only; that is, if I were asked to assume it in critical times. I say, quite modestly, that my interests and ideas at this stage are not only confined to Algeria. I hope this will not be misinterpreted.

[Al-Bakr] You have called for dissolving the current government. Is this contingent only upon the formation of a new government to prepare for the next legislative elections in the spring, or does it go beyond this to other issues?

[Ben Bella] First of all, the issue is related to the government itself, for I have noticed some shortcomings in it because it has acted according to the logic of premeditated intentions, especially against the National Liberation Front [FLN].

Here I would like to point out that I am not defending the FLN, for I have some problems with them. I refuse, however, to see the FLN's "symbolic" essence infringed upon. The FLN, moreover, comprises a number of loyal strugglers. Any strike against the FLN, therefore, is tantamount to a strike against the revolution. I do know that there are many who are undermining the revolution and who have found an opportunity today to harm the people and the revolution. I both reject and denounce this. It is no secret that the current government has taken this road. The second point I want to discuss here concerns the so-called reforms adopted by the current government. Here I would like to say that I am not against reforms. In fact, I do not believe anyone opposes reforms. What is happening today, however, is completely the opposite. What is happening now aims at fragmenting Algeria and gradually selling it out. I have figures and evidence to support this. Just to give you one example, they left the doors wide open to foreign companies to enter Algeria, without providing local companies with the capabilities to compete with them. How can any kind of justice and balance be achieved between a French company and an Algerian company when the French franc is worth six times the dinar on the black market? I do not agree with the logic of the "reforms" they are suggesting. I believe that if any open-door policy does not provide economic revenue, it is a kind of treason. This is selling out. This is shameful. Furthermore, this process is accelerating rapidly so that they might lead us to the stage of "brutal open door." Therefore, the current government must leave. We cannot wait another five months until the legislative elections. It has to leave now, in less than one month. I am not the only one asking for this. Workers in the private and public sectors have denounced the reform policy and consider it the selling of Algeria.

[Al-Bakr] In your view, how can this crisis be overcome?

[Ben Bella] First, the current government must be changed and replaced by a new government whose task will be to hold legislative elections. After that, the new National Assembly (Parliament) will examine the useful means and required reforms—not the current reforms, necessarily—for tackling the situation and examining the process of the current disguised selling of Algeria.

[Al-Bakr] If you meet with President Chadli Bendjedid, what would you tell him?

[Ben Bella] I would tell him what I am telling you, verbatim. We are not attacking him. On the contrary, we hope for good relations between us. What is going on, however, is intolerable because it is an antinational action and is not aimed at achieving the interests of Algeria. President Bendjedid should be aware of that. I am ready to place all evidence and figures at his disposal.

Therefore, this process must be halted and the government must be changed because it is involved in suspect actions, whether through the scheme of "reforms," or through the attempts to strike at the FLN in order to create a political vacuum in the country. I am not saying the entire government is involved; it includes some good members, but they are powerless. Therefore, we say clearly: "The present government must be changed and a transitional government must be formed to supervise the next elections."

[Al-Bakr] My own judgment is that your call for reducing the number of parties is aimed at forming a broad current of support for you. What is your comment on this?

[Ben Bella] No, not supporting me only, but democracy also, because I am only biased in favor of Algeria. On the other hand, I have brothers in the party of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria. I do not, however, act on the basis of party affiliation. The current that can be formed is an alternative to the state of fragmentation. There are now over 25 parties in Algeria and the number is increasing. Therefore, I am calling for cohesion in order to reach a logical situation in which six or seven parties exist, which would be a healthy situation.

[Al-Bakr] In light of your contacts and expectations, do you expect an imminent end to the state of party fragmentation?

[Ben Bella] I held several contacts with many parties (about seven parties, including the FLN). And I believe there is a possibility for a meeting between these parties and the Movement for Democracy, in which I work with my brothers. Three other parties may join the movement to form a broad bloc with the aim of bridging the gap and containing the fragmentation.

[Al-Bakr] There have been reports of differences between you and the Islamic Salvation Front, and that this front has started to prepare a propaganda campaign against you which they will initiate through the Friday sermons at mosques. At what is this aimed?

[Ben Bella] This is democracy. I believe every party has the right to expression, whether in the mosques or elsewhere. At the same time, it will not prevent me from going ahead in defending my point of view.

[Al-Bakr] They are saying that you have come back in order to rule, and that you have no chance because time has left you behind.

[Ben Bella] They are free to say whatever they wish. It is up to the people, who will accept or reject that. This is democracy. What is more important is that dialogue should be kept within a democratic framework. Also, they have the right to express views contrasting with mine, and I have the right to disagree with them over several issues.

[Al-Bakr] What are the points of the disagreement?

[Ben Bella] In my view, Islamic affiliation exists among all. Our entire people are Muslims, not half or three-quarters of them as is being said by some who believe in various grades of faith. I disagree with those who believe that. I consider the entire country Islamic. Even the liberation and the war against the colonialists came through this avenue. Since the time of Prince 'Abd-al-Qadir, Islam has been the force that drove France out of Algeria. Our understanding and interpretation of that differ from those of others. Differences are acceptable, even in jurisprudence. It is known that there are four schools of religious law that approve variations of judgments and opinions. We reject the logic of repudiation. We should follow the example of the leading scholars and resort to dialogue and plurality. We agree on certain things, and what we disagree about remains subject to discussion within a democratic dialogue. Even with regard to Islam itself, they represent one perspective and I represent another.

[Al-Bakr] You are the only party in Algeria with a wide-ranging network of Arab and international relations. In your view, how can that be exploited to help Algeria out of the impasse?

[Ben Bella] Inasmuch as Algeria is moving away from its Arab environment and getting itself lost in mazes. Therefore, I am saying that there must be a return to principles—the principles of 1 November 1954, the emergence of the liberation revolution. This is very important. I believe there are problems that are not confined only to Algeria. They are Arab and international problems, and they are being discussed. However, the Western perspective for development did not take into consideration the issue of moral, cultural, and psychological boundaries, and they want to force mankind to follow their models in establishing consumer societies. I say we must be alert to that and cultural dimensions must be taken into consideration to make life possible.

[Al-Bakr] You recently returned from Iraq; how do you see the situation on the ground?

[Ben Bella] I came out with the impression that our brothers in Iraq are steadfast and that they are fully ready to defend their dignity. They are convinced that they are right despite the magnitude of the crusaders' campaign against them. There is a prepl'anned conspiracy against Iraq. What is being said about Kuwait is only for public consumption. There is a premeditated scenario and, if it were not for Kuwait, they would have fabricated other pretexts to attack Iraq—its power and president (they want the head of the man). They want to pursue against Iraq the same policy they pursued against Germany during World War II.

I am convinced that this is the last battle of the Arabs and the Third World. Now that they have eradicated Socialism, Nicaragua, and the Third World, today they want to do away with the Arabs. If they accomplish what they want in terms of defeating Iraq, then neither we nor the Africans will have any presence or influence.

[Al-Bakr] Do you think that there still is a chance for an Arab solution?

[Ben Bella] Yes, I believe that there is an opportunity for peace and for an Arab solution. I wonder why there could be no chance for an Arab solution? Why Latin American states were given the chance to resolve the issue of Nicaragua? The Nicaragua issue was resolved and elections were held, not through the efforts of the United States or the Security Council, but rather through the understanding of the sons of that region. Yesterday, a meeting was held in Jakarta for resolving the Cambodian issue, which is another example. Moreover, we were about to resolve the Lebanese issue under the auspices of the Arab League. The issues of Bahrain and Qatar were resolved within an Arab framework. We must realize that if we do not reach an understanding on the solutions to our problems, then we will open prospects for others to get involved and interfere in our internal affairs. I would like to say that some of the proposals put forth as solutions complicate the crisis, particularly those that call on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. This is nonsense and not a solution. The Kuwait crisis must be resolved within the framework of a comprehensive outlook on regional problems. It is not acceptable that Iraq leave Kuwait without Israel's withdrawing from the occupied Palestinian territories and without Syria getting out of Lebanon. This is what logic dictates. An understanding must be reached on a comprehensive disarmament of destruction weapons between Iraq and Israel. In addition, a just system must be established. It is unacceptable for some to act in this manner with Arab money while people are dying of hunger in Sudan and Mauritania. Logic and conscience cannot accept that some individuals squander the billions deposited in Western banks. This is evil. I call for a timetable to resolve all issues. I am optimistic that this can take place on condition that the West does not gang up against it.

[Al-Bakr] How do you see French President Mitterrand's speech at the United Nations? Do you think that it is a way out for a peaceful solution of the crisis?

[Ben Bella] Yes, it represents the first signs of a solution to the crisis. It is an important speech. I thank him for that. He does not call for withdrawal from Kuwait, but rather the intention to get out, and he speaks of compensations. Also his speech opens prospects for discussing all issues, including the issue of debts. He speaks of returning to legitimacy through holding elections. These are important points and are different from the U.S. position. I think that France must proceed in this direction. France is a great nation and, consequently, it must adopt a position different from that of the United States. It has interests in the Arab world. Therefore, its concept of things must be more profound. In short, Mitterrand's position opens prospects for discussion.

[Al-Bakr] How can this position be developed in a manner that will bring about the possibility of a peaceful solution?

[Ben Bella] I cannot talk about the details now, although I hold a comprehensive viewpoint in this respect. I am working now and devoting my time to this issue. As an Arab, I reject an outcome where Iraq emerges from the crisis as a weak nation. After taking this fact into consideration, it is possible to discuss everything else. It is impermissible to deal with Jordan in this manner. They keep reminding Jordan of the favor of sending them $45 million at a time when they are paying tens of billions of dollars for the foreign presence in the region. I felt bitterness when I visited Jordan. I appreciate the great King Husayn. This ordeal has revealed all the cards and everybody's true colors.

[Al-Bakr] How do you view Iran's position and role?

[Ben Bella] There have been contacts between us and we have discussed this. They have made many mistakes. This time, however, mistakes are unacceptable. If they make a mistake this time, it would be the end of them and they would have gone along with the wave of arrogance. Is it possible that they would close the door to let their Iraqi brothers die of hunger? By God, we will neither accept nor ever forget that. I urge you to publish these words. We depend a lot on them in helping their Iraqi brothers. Otherwise, there is no sense in all their talk about the revolution and the arrogance. Do they think that the Americans came and will leave quickly? I will keep repeating this: We will not forgive them for any hesitation.

Egypt

Gorbachev Envoy Primakov Visits for Talks

Arrives; Reviews Gulf Proposals

JN2410141090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Report by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] The Soviet Presidential Council delegation led by Yevgeniy Primakov, envoy of Soviet President Gorbachev, arrived in Cairo this morning. In an arrival statement, he expressed the hope that he will meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss the Gulf crisis. He described his talks in the countries he visited as positive. He expressed his optimism by saying that so far not all available opportunities have been exploited to obtain a political resolution to the Gulf crisis.

The Soviet ambassador in Cairo briefed the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on the Soviet ideas that were the subject of discussion during Primakov's tour of Baghdad, Amman, Rome, Paris, Washington, and London. According to Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources, these ideas revolve around achieving an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and discussing historical Iraqi rights in Kuwait by means of an international conference convened for this purpose. In this conference, the Kuwaiti and Iraqi Governments will present documents and evidence that

prove their historical rights to disputed areas. The Soviet ideas also propose that if the international conference fails to resolve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute, the matter will be turned over to an international arbitration commission, provided that all foreign powers with forces in the Gulf pledge not to attack Iraq militarily if it announces its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait.

The Soviet ideas also call for implementing a partial lifting of the economic and aerial blockade imposed on Iraq, pending Iraq's readiness to withdraw. The rest of the steps that will lead to canceling all other Security Council resolutions will be taken after an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is complete. These ideas also link the Gulf crisis solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict by extending the international conference's work after ending the Gulf crisis.

Primakov will brief President Husni Mubarak on the results of his recent tour in an attempt to achieve a united position that will give momentum to peaceful options in the Gulf.

Peace Efforts Welcomed by Ghali

NC2410153790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, after receiving Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium, at Cairo airport, said that the Soviet envoy's visit is part of the tour that took him to Washington, Paris, and Rome. The purpose of the tour is to inform the governments of these countries about the Soviet Union's efforts to find a settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Ghali emphasized the importance of consultations and constant cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He also stressed that the two countries' views are identical in that they both seek full implementation of the UN resolutions on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Dr. Ghali welcomed the efforts being exerted by the Soviet Union for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

Primakov Meets Al-Baz; Departs

NC2510065890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2307 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian-Soviet talks between Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidum and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy, began at the Foreign Ministry tonight.

In a statement before the talks, Dr. al-Baz emphasized that Primakov's visit underlines the Soviet leadership's eagerness to exchange views on current regional and international issues. He added that Egypt attaches great importance to the Soviet stand during the current phase and hopes that Soviet-Egyptian efforts will lead to consolidating security and peace in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Soviet Envoy Primakov characterized his recent talks in a number of the capitals concerned with the Gulf issue as "very successful."

Primakov expressed his hope that a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute will be achieved, emphasizing that a military solution will be a "catastrophe."

The Soviet envoy will leave Cairo for Damascus tomorrow on a brief visit to Syria. He will return to Cairo on 26 October to meet with President Husni Mubarak, who is now on a tour of the Arabian Gulf.

The Soviet envoy concluded his statement by saying that he has an invitation to visit Iraq again.

[At 2345 GMT on 24 October in a Cairo-datelined item, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds, "Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and Soviet President Gorbachev's envoy, has stated that during his talks tonight with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, they exchanged views on the Gulf crisis.

["After his meeting with Dr. al-Baz, Primakov expressed his pleasure at meeting with President Husni Mubarak on 26 October after Primakov returns from Damascus."]

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit in 'Coming Few Days'

JN2410181790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned from ranking Egyptian sources that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Cairo in the coming few days. The sources said that al-Qadhdhafi will discuss with President Husni Mubarak the current situation in the region and relations between the two countries. Al-Qadhdhafi will also brief President Mubarak on the integration steps between Libya and Sudan, and will present to him a proposal for bringing Egypt into this plan as an associate and for establishing a regional security order among the three countries.

It has also been learned that Libya has officially asked Egypt to fully support the Libyan ideas on solving the existing problem between the Sudanese Government and the Popular Movement led by John Garang.

'Abd-al-Majid on Averting Military Confrontation

JN2410185790 Manama WAKH in English 1555 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 24 (GNA)—Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid urged Iraq today to respond to peace calls to avoid a disaster in the region.

"The initiative is now in the hands of the Iraqi leadership, which should respond to peace calls to avoid a disaster and to spare the region any dangers," he told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in an interview.

'Abd-al-Majid, accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his Gulf tour, denied there is any [word indistinct] by any state towards Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

He said: "We are witnessing international preparations but it is natural that we do everything possible to avoid military confrontation" he said.

He said there were no differences among the U.N. Security Council permanent members regarding a solution to the Gulf crisis, adding "they are discussing all options very carefully."

"I don't see any [word indistinct] on the contrary there is determination on following the course which will not lead to a military confrontation provided that the situation returns to what it was before August 2.

"After this, all outstanding problems can be discussed," the Egyptian minister said.

He said Egypt could not imagine the continuation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait or nonreturn of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government as a sovereign state, which is a member of the Islamic Conference Organization, the United Nations, the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Asked whether time was running in favour of Iraq, he said no, and concerning the opposition in the United States to any war, he said: "I don't think the American public opinion will accept aggression or the occupation of Kuwait."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he saw no need to freezing the Arab League as was proposed by its former secretary general Mahmud Riyad.

"No Arab country, including those which sided with Iraq, wants to leave the Arab League," he said.

He said Egypt insisted on moving the League headquarters from Tunisia to its permanent place in Cairo. "Preparations are under way to move it. Egypt rejects any attempt aimed at obstructing the move," he said.

Responding to a question, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid praised relations between the UAE and Egypt, saying he was sure they would further strengthen.

He said President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and President Husni Mubarak today discussed the Gulf crisis and bilateral ties and had identical views.

"This is natural and serves the interests of the two countries and the whole Arab nation," he said.

Defense Minister on Visit to Saudi Arabia

NC2510114290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has stated that the Egyptian Forces stationed in Saudi Arabia are in the highest state of combat preparedness and are capable of carrying out any mission the Saudi command assigns them. He said that the Egyptian Armed Forces are defending Egyptian national security and stressed that Arab national security is an extension of Egyptian national security. Therefore, defending Arab national security means defending the main components of Egyptian national security, especially in the fields of economy, employment, and normal stability.

Gen. Abu-Talib said this to military editors following his return to Cairo yesterday after a visit to Saudi Arabia as part of the delegation which accompanied President Mubarak during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Gen. Abu-Talib said that his talks with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation and second deputy prime minister, and other high-ranking Saudi officials had been fruitful in that they consolidated military operations between the two countries and the ways to develop this cooperation, whether in the combat sphere or in that of military industrialization.

Asked about Egypt and Saudi Arabia participating in joint military industrialization and whether this subject was discussed during the visit, Gen. Abu-Talib said that military cooperation always covers the main points, including military industrialization. However, this subject is not discussed during such visits.

Asked about the possibility of additional Egyptian troops being sent to Saudi Arabia, he said that this is a political decision. Our Armed Forces are always ready to give all assistance to Saudi Arabia. Thank God, we have trained, capable, and sufficient forces. He explained that the decision on what kind of troops are dispatched is primarily a political one.

Asked about the Saudis' impressions and feelings toward the Egyptian forces, Gen. Abu-Talib said that the Egyptian forces have been sent to Saudi territory at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. There is full conviction and happiness about the presence of these forces as a sign of condemnation of aggression, support for Saudi Arabia, defense of justice, and solidarity on the part of the Egyptian people, who support justice and have carried out a positive action represented by the dispatched troops.

Gen. Abu-Talib said that there is constant cooperation and coordination between the Egyptian and Arab forces in the region. Egyptian and Saudi forces have also carried out various joint exercises.

Gen. Abu-Talib addressed a message to the relatives of the Egyptian troops present abroad. He stressed that these troops enjoy high morale and believe they are performing a historic mission which will be remembered by future generations.

Gen. Abu-Talib explained that during his visit to the Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia he felt these soldiers' love for their homeland. Because of the distance, even though they are in their other homeland of Saudi Arabia, these soldiers feel they need more contacts and more information and genuine reports from the Egyptian radio and press. He explained that urgent measures are being taken to enable these troops to receive radio and television broadcasts during November. More quantities of daily newspapers will be sent to them, in addition to the AL-HAQIQAH [TRUTH] bulletin, which contains a digest of Egyptian papers.

'Source' Says Cairo Rejects Emergency Summit

PM2410145390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Responsible Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Cairo Opposed To Emergency Summit and Denies Receiving Any Peace Plan"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a responsible Egyptian source has denied that Egypt has received or is currently discussing an initiative or a plan for a peaceful Arab settlement of the Gulf crisis.

The source reaffirmed Egypt's categorical rejection of any call for a new emergency Arab summit conference or for turning the ordinary Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Cairo in November, into an emergency summit to discuss the crisis. The source did say, however, that there were attempts by some Arab states in this connection. Egypt, he said, has rejected these attempts as "a waste of time."

He added that certain Arab sides were making such attempts in order to procrastinate regarding the crisis, while others were making these attempts to correct their positions as the effects of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait have exposed their embarrassing stances.

Quoting the political leadership, the source said that Egypt rejects such attempts and initiatives, and emphasizes that the Arab solution lies in Resolution 195 issued by the Arab summit conferences held in Cairo representing the Arab majority and legitimacy, and that all the Arab sides interested in a peaceful solution within an Arab framework should urge Iraq to address the legitimate, existing resolution instead of seeking other formulas.

Gulf Countries Cancel Debts of $7.7 Billion

NC2410163890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo 24 Oct (MENA)—Three Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], have decided to cancel Egypt's debts. Qatar, in a similar move involving debts by Arab as well as developing African countries, last week wrote off all of Egypt's debts, estimated at $0.6 billion.

Economists believe that the cancellation of these debts, totaling $7.7 billion, will free the Egyptian economy, already hurt by the Gulf crisis, of a heavy burden.

Egypt's debts to Saudi Arabia totaled $4.2 billion. Its debts to the UAE were approximately $2 billion.

The decision by the four Arab countries follows a similar decision passed by U.S. President George Bush at the beginning of September concerning the cancellation of Egypt's military debts to the United States, totaling $7.1 billion. The U.S. Senate has already approved the move. The issue is currently being debated by a joint committee from the Senate and House of Representatives. The committee is expected to end its discussions tonight. A special bill canceling the Egyptian debts will then be put to a vote by the Congress. [passage omitted]

The decisions to cancel the Egyptian debt come as the Egyptian Government prepares to sign a final agreement with the IMF and the World Bank following their endorsement of the economic reform program drafted by Egypt in the light of IMF demands.

The reform program includes measures to raise the interest rate on bank deposits to a maximum of 23 percent. The current rate of inflation in Egypt is 20 percent. The exchange rate of the Egypt pound to the U.S. dollar will be gradually brought in line with the market value, and one exchange rate instead of several will be adopted. The prices of certain services, such as electricity and energy, will be raised to a level equal to world prices. A serious tax system will be adopted. Also, the government will embark on an austerity plan to cut down unnecessary expenses.

To Implement Economic Plan

NC2510121690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0906 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 25 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that the governments of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries have decided to write off all Egypt's debts to these countries, amounting to $7 billion.

At the same time the Gulf fund for assisting Egypt will hold a meeting next Sunday in order to send a letter to Egypt informing it that the fund is writing off a $2 billion deposit which it had deposited with the Egyptian Central Bank.

The agency has learned that the GCC countries are currently formulating a collective program to bolster the Egyptian economy. The program will be implemented over a period of several years in the form of cash outlays ranging from $1 to $2 billion annually, in addition to the implementation of development projects amounting to between $2 and $3 billion.

The agency also learned that Egypt has obtained $1 billion in financial assistance from Saudi Arabia in addition to $500 million that has been allocated for several projects. Egypt also received $600 million from the United Arab Emirates.

An official source told MENA that Egypt's $7.1 billion military debt to the United States, which is now in the process of being written off, would have amounted, with interest, to $21 billion in 2006.

IMF Delegation Arrives in Cairo for Talks

To Discuss Loans, Aid

NC2010215790 Cairo MENA in English 2112 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—A mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) arrived here tonight under an IMF official.

The mission will have talks with Egyptian economy officials on agreement on loans and aid, to be extended by the World Bank to Egypt.

Begins Talks With Government

NC2110144790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Talks between Egypt and the IMF began in Cairo today. The Egyptian delegation was led by Dr. Salah Hamid, Central Bank governor, and the IMF delegation by Short Brook Knil [name as received], the IMF's economic expert.

During this round of talks an agreement is expected to be reached on the loans that Egypt will receive, particularly as the IMF agreed in 1988 to grant Egypt a $375 million loan but Egypt has received only the first installment of $150 million. Payment of the loan has been postponed until an agreement is reached between the two sides. The talks will also cover the preparations for signing the final agreement sometime before the end of this year, and additional loans and aid which the IMF can grant Egypt during the coming stage.

Suspected Terrorists, Arms Seized at Border

NC2510111190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0028 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA) [dateline as received]—In the past two days, security forces have arrested four individuals, including Egyptians and other Arabs, who tried to enter the country via Nuwaybi' Port carrying with them quantities of ammunition, explosives, machine guns, and pistols which they had concealed in secret compartments inside iron boxes they had with them.

The security forces' intensive investigations have revealed that this group is one of several terrorist groups which have been planning to enter the country, bomb some vital installations, and assassinate some personalities in Egypt with the aim of provoking a state of instability and insecurity.

Security sources said that this group arrived in Egypt by an overland route from Saudi Arabia, via Jordan and Nuwaybi' Port. The sources added that there are other terrorist elements working with this group who might have succeeded in entering the country at an earlier date without carrying weapons and ammunition.

The security forces are currently pursuing these terrorists intensively in order to foil their plans.

The detained individuals have been referred to the state security organ for interrogation in order to uncover their terrorist plans.

'Extremist Groups' Said Involved in Assassination

JN2510093890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Oct 90 pp 1, 10

[Text] An official security source has said that information received by the security services on the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub and his companions indicates that members of extremist groups participated with terrorists in committing the crime. The reason for this is the existence of relations between these groups and terrorist organizations abroad. These organizations consider the groups as their bases in Egypt; they supply these groups with funds and draft the general outlines of their operations and objectives by which they perpetrate their crimes.

The report on criminal evidence received by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa indicated this after it became certain that the explosives found at the scene of the incident were identical with explosives found in the possession of members of the extremist groups in furnished flats during the past months in al-Mawaridi, al-Munirah, al-Sayidah Zaynab, and al-Zahir. It has been proven that the explosives seized in these flats are of the same type that were left by the criminals on the day of the assassination; they are highly explosive bombs.

The report notes that the members of the extremist groups include experts who assemble such explosive bombs. The shells found at the scene were also identical with shells that were seized in the past months from members of the extremist groups.

The security source added that the threats that have been revealed through the report on criminal evidence show that the crime was planned outside the country and was perpetrated by trained persons, who might be from the military wings of the extremist groups. They are highly trained in carrying out terrorist operations. Wide-ranging search operations might result in their arrest within a short period of time.

Cairo-Damascus Land Route To Open 1 Nov

NC2510092590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 25 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports that for the first time that it has been decided to operate a land route between Cairo and Damascus. Operations will begin along the new route on 1 November at the rate of two round trips per week. The trip will take 24 hours, including the ferry crossing. The paper adds that this new route will bolster ties among fraternal Arab countries and will provide fast and modern land transport for citizens. The authorities supervising the project will coordinate operations this week.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Address to Sudanese Students

LD2310223990

[Editorial report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 2033 GMT on 23 October broadcasts a 75-minute recorded address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students at Omdurman University on 21 October. The Libyan leader salutes the democratic phenomenon in Sudan as exemplified by the formation of people's committees, and he claims that such committees are appearing all over the world. He speaks at length about the origins of the French revolution as a manifestation of the people's will. He points out the shortcomings of royalist, republican, and parliamentary regimes. They basically falsify the people's will. The triumph of the Jamahiriyah, the state of the masses, is inevitable, he contends. People in the West are not free; they are oppressed, he goes on. The West is backward. It is advanced technologically, but backward socially. See the ant, the spider, the bee: Scientists are full of admiration for their skills. They build beautiful homes. Yet they are backward socially.

He goes on to say: We do not need anyone to teach us about religion. Religion is morals, praying, fasting. What right do some people have to come and preach religion to us? We can read the Koran. The parties based on religion exploit people to enslave them. He asks who authorized them to speak in the name of God? Do they have a receipt to this effect? People in the Sudan, Mauritania, etc. are religious; they do not need any religious parties. They know how to pray. The Jamahiriyah system will spread throughout the world. There will be basic people's congresses which in turn select people's committees, which carry out people's resolutions, he predicts.

Libyan-Chadian Joint Committee Sessions Begin

LD2410132190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Oct (AMU Pool)—The meetings of the seventh session of the Libyan Arab-Chadian joint committee on the implementation of the Algiers agreement commenced this morning in Tripoli.

The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the people's committee for the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau Acheikh ibn Oumar, Chadian minister of external relations; Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian information minister; and the members of the delegation accompanying them.

Reportage on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Uganda

WA2410192490

For coverage of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's state visit to Uganda, see the East Africa section of the 24 October 1990 and subsequent issues of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

Mauritania

Colonel Taya Receives Mali President's Message

LD2510093790 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Military Committee for National Salvation [MCNS] chairman and head of state, today received Mali Agriculture Minister Moulaye Haidara, special envoy of Malian President General Moussa Traore. The meeting was attended by MCNS member and Minister of Rural Development Major Mohamed Ould Sid'Lekhal. Following the audience, the Malian official said he had handed his excellency the president a message from his brother and friend President Moussa Traore. The message concerns the friendly ancient relations between the two countries, their peoples, and presidents.

Sudan

Egypt Said To Close Airspace to Jordan Traffic

JN2510134390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Sudanese papers today mentioned that Egyptian authorities have closed Egyptian airspace to Sudanese Airways planes leaving for Jordan, without giving any explanation for this measure.

The papers cited 'Ala' al-Din Muhammad 'Abdallah, the assistant director of Sudanese Airways, as saying that the two weekly flights that secure the transportation of Sudanese nationals wishing to leave Iraq and Kuwait from al-'Aqaba can no longer cross Egyptian airspace.

'Abdallah affirmed that these flights had been scheduled to last until the end of November.

Some Schools Closed To Deter Protests

PM1910142890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 90 pp 1-4

[Unattributed report: "A Number of Party Oppositionists"]

[Text] Khartoum, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Sudanese sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the government of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has closed schools in the two provinces of Kordofan and Darfur in West Sudan in the wake of the large-scale student demonstrations staged there to protest deteriorating living conditions, food shortages, and the crazy increases in the price of maize.

The sources said that the authorities in Kordofan province decided to consider the closure a "vacation" to end 1 November in order to avert further demonstrations.

The sources pointed out that the authorities in Darfur have closed schools without setting a reopening date. This followed violent demonstrations to protest deteriorating living conditions, deteriorating security, and the spread of armed robbery.

The sources said that the police in Darfur opened fire on student demonstrators, wounding an unspecified number of them.

The demonstrations coincided with international warnings about the danger of the famine in Sudan and criticism of the al-Bashir government's attempt to conceal this danger, despite reports of the severe shortages of food supplies in Darfur, Kordofan, and the eastern province, and even in Khartoum itself, where bread shortages have occurred.

The government of Darfur province has started taking measures to deal with possible friction between farmers and herdsmen in the southern areas of the province as a result of the arrival of large numbers of herdsmen with their cattle because of the drought and famine in some northern areas of the province.

Meanwhile, security authorities have arrested a number of political party oppositionists including 'Uthman Faqray, former governor of the Red Sea Governorate, and a number of party leaders in Port Sudan. The authorities have also moved some 30 political prisoners, including State Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna and former Information Minister Bashir 'Umar, from Kubar Prison in Khartoum to provincial prisons.

Some circles have said that this step was taken because the Sudanese authorities expect demonstrations and unrest to extend to Khartoum in view of the continuing deterioration in living conditions, and there is a possibility of a large-scale campaign of arrests of political and unionist oppositionists in the future.

Forty-Four Political Detainees Released

EA2410154290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 October (SUNA)—The relevant authorities have released 44 political detainees including Idris al-Banna, the former head of state's council member, who was found not guilty by a special court; Muhammad Sa'id al-Qaddal; Usamah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nur; Alfred Ta'ban [BBC reporter in Khartoum detained 29 March 1990]; Ja'far Hasan 'Uthman; Dr. Hassan Muhammad al-Amin; and Adnan Zahir Surur.

This was announced today by Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council and of the [word indistinct] committee for security and operations, who said the releases had been effected within the framework of the celebrations marking the October Revolution and the end of the national conference on the political system. He referred to the revolution's just and forgiving nature and its promise to release anyone against whom no misconduct had been proven.

BBC Reporter Released From Khartoum Detention

AB2510090890 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 22 Oct 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in Khartoum, Alfred Taban, has finally been released from detention after spending nearly seven months in prison without charge. Alfred tells us that he was well treated with three meals a day and his clothes washed twice a week. His family and some of his friends were allowed to visit him. Well, there was also a lot of space for exercise. His release came as a surprise although he knew that there would be some releases this month. He says that for the entire period of his detention he was not asked a single question and upon his release nothing was said about his work as a journalist. However, he has been told that he should not leave Khartoum without informing the authorities and that he should not work against the government. [passage omitted]

Libyan Leader's 'Initiative' on Garang Welcomed

EA2310224390 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 October (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Brigadier Pio Yukwan has reaffirmed that the revolution's (?policy) is to achieve peace in the south by peaceful means. He said in a press statement today [that the] ongoing war in the south had affected the country and southern citizens. He pointed out to the Southern Committee efforts to restore peace and the committee's appeal to both government

and rebel movements (?to) ceasefire. He urged southerners to take the initiative to protect peace option, saying that the Libyan leader's initiative to contact rebel leader John Garang was received satisfactorily among southerners.

Al-Qadhdhafi Said 'Satisfied' With Visit

EA2410152990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1419 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Oct (SUNA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, has expressed satisfaction over what has been achieved during his recent visit to Sudan by way of historic decisions made in the interests of the Arab nation and the peoples of Sudan and Libya. The internationalist leader [al-qa'id al-umami] said this in a cable he sent Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], while on his way home. Al-Qadhdhafi said: As we leave Khartoum, we wish to inform you that we were moved by the hospitality and generosity afforded us [words indistinct] our people in Sudan. [passage indistinct]

Radio Reports U.S. Wheat Unloaded in Port Sudan

EA2110214090 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] A great quantity of American wheat has arrived in Port Sudan of which 35,000 metric tons has already been unloaded. Quantities are arriving in Port Sudan every day. The quantity that is to arrive is 900,000 metric tons under the agreement between the Sudanese Government and the U.S. Administration.

The U.S. Administration, however, earlier this year diverted a cargo of wheat to Djibouti, but the Sudanese Government viewed this as being according to their agreement. [sentence as heard] (?American circles), however, say that they remain in agreement with Sudan and will agree to anything Sudan needs.

WFP Wheat in Port Sudan for Drought Relief

AB2210174590 Paris AFP in English 1626 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Nairobi, Oct 22 (AFP)—The World Food Programme (WFP) said Monday [22 October] that it has positioned 19,000 tonnes of wheat at Port Sudan for rapid delivery to help people in areas hit by drought. The food will be used by 800,000 residents in the Red Sea province of Eastern Sudan, in northern Kurdufan and in the Darfur and Al Butanah regions of western and central Sudan.

This is part of a "preliminary emergency allocation" of 25,000 metric tons that will be supplied for immediate drought relief. The total food aid needs for the coming year is still unknown as full crop assessment will not be completed until the end of November, the WFP said in a press statement.

However, the Sudanese Government has requested urgent delivery from abroad of 75,000 metric tons of cereals for relief distribution to some 2.4 million drought-affected people in northern Sudan. In 1989, rains failed in many parts of Sudan and the U.N. programme supplied food to about one million drought-affected people in the country.

The continuing drought is causing early migration of farmers and herders from their lands in search of water, food, grazing areas and employment.

Relief Groups Urged To Bolster Agriculture

EA2510105790 Khartoum SUNA English 0940 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24th October (SUNA)—An authorised political source has told the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" that relief organizations operating in the Sudan would be requested to include agricultural inputs into their programmes of relief to the Sudan so as to help the Sudan attain self-sufficiency in the field of agriculture.

The source told the paper Wednesday [24 October] that Sudan, although appreciating the role played by the relief organisations in the field of relief to the Sudanese at the times of plague, still the government would appreciate if these organisations would boost the new government policy in the field of self-dependence in food production by providing the country with improved seeds and the like. He said the Sudan would appreciate any assistance in the fields of agricultural inputs and agricultural machinery.

Official Reports Splits in Rebel Leadership

EA2110092390 Khartoum SUNA in English 1049 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum 20 October (SUNA)—The deputy governor of the Upper Nile, Mango Ajack Deng, has revealed the existence of severe splits among the rebel movement's leaderships. Speaking to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" published today, Mr Deng said the tribal conflicts were behind the split, adding that the rebel movement arrested great numbers of its leaderships in the region who are not members of the Dinka tribe.

He unmasked that over 150 rebels surrendered themselves to the armed forces in the region as large numbers of the rebels surrender themselves daily to the Armed Forces. The movement in the region faces chaos and splits among its ranks as large numbers of them fled the camps due to appalling famine in these camps, said Deng.

On the security situation in the region, Mr Deng said it was stable and the situation was all under the Armed Forces' control. He commended the role played by the people's defense forces in the region, indicating that they were fighting side by side with the Armed Forces in the war zones. A remarkable turnout by the tribes in the region for recruiting in the people's defense forces is observed, said Mr Deng.

Bahrain

Djibouti Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

JN2510103890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH)—Djibouti Foreign Minister Bahdon Farah Moumin and his delegation today arrived in Manama from Jeddah on a visit to Bahrain within the framework of a tour to a number of states in the region.

During the visit, the Djibouti minister will hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah which will deal with bilateral relations and means to improve them, as well as the latest developments in the Gulf and Arab and African issues.

Minister Confers With U.S. Ambassador Gnehm

JN2510085890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1112 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah today met with U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Edward Gnehm who is currently visiting Bahrain.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields. They also reviewed the current situation in the Gulf and its serious developments as a result of the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait and Iraq's practices which aim at destroying Kuwait and changing its demographic and geographic identity.

The two sides also discussed the international and regional measures taken to pressure Iraq and force it to unconditionally withdraw its invasion forces from Kuwait and to recognize the legitimacy as represented by Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Mubarak Inquires About Amir's Health

JN2310191490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 22 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, received a telephone call today from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which he asked about the health of His Highness Bahraini Amir 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah.

During the telephone conversation, his highness the heir apparent informed the Egyptian president of his highness the amir's good health. His highness the heir apparent expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Egyptian president over his good feelings toward his highness the amir.

During the telephone conversation, they also discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arab Gulf region.

Kuwait

Damascus Embassy Cites Invasion Casualties

NC2410223190 Paris AFP in English 2219 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, Oct 24 (AFP)—Twelve thousand Kuwaiti military personnel were taken prisoner by Iraq and 4,200 Kuwaiti nationals were killed in the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait on August 2, the Kuwaiti Embassy here said Wednesday.

"A large number of Kuwaiti civilians, notably the families of diplomats, as well as the ambassador of Kuwait in Baghdad, are also imprisoned in Iraq," the embassy said in a communique. The strength of the Kuwaiti armed forces at the time of the invasion was about 20,000.

AL-KHALIJ Reports Withdrawal of Iraqi Troops

JN2410120290 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 21 Oct 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] AL-KHALIJ—Iraqi forces have started an organized withdrawal during the past two nights. Hundreds of tanks, armored vehicles, and personnel carriers have been seen moving toward north Kuwait, specifically to al-Mitla' hills, al-Jahra' city, and the al-Sabiyah road. The largest concentration of these forces was seen around the fence erected by the Iraqi forces last week.

It was noticed that the Iraqi withdrawal has been intensive and swift, and it is taking place during the night until dawn, while stopping altogether during the day. An intensive withdrawal of vehicles and soldiers was monitored from the fifth and sixth circular roads. A number of positions and major inspection points were evacuated.

On the other hand, no movements were monitored from the al-Wafrah area and the surrounding areas opposite the Saudi border. These forces were reinforced over the past few days.

It is not known whether these swift withdrawals are purely tactical moves that can be useful in political maneuvers, particularly since they coincide with intensive peace efforts being made by the Soviet envoy Primakov in a number of world capitals, or whether they are part of a plan to improve the defensive positions of the Iraqi forces in northern Kuwait, or whether they are linked with a political decision in Baghdad to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory.

In another development, AL-KHALIJ has learned that Iraqi citizens wishing to visit Kuwait will not be allowed to do so without prior permission. This raises more questions about the nature of the Iraqi moves and how

they relate to the political intentions of the leadership—intentions that will be revealed over the next few days or weeks.

Oil Minister Seeks Gulf Compensation for Losses

PM2310134990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 90 p 11

[Interview with Oil Minister Rashid Salim al-'Amiri by Wahib Ghurab in Jeddah; date unspecified]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ghurab] It was announced that you have an agreement with Saudi Arabia and another with the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Can you shed some light on these agreements?

[Al-'Amiri] There are agreements between us and both Saudi Arabia and the UAE within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. The agreements stipulated that any state whose oil installations were damaged and whose oil output was reduced as a result of the the war, that is the Iraq-Iran war, would be compensated by the other states on a loan basis until the normal situation and output were restored. Undoubtedly that agreement constitutes a protection for all the states, because any of these states could be exposed to danger. And I very much hope that all the Gulf states will stand by Kuwait and help it to compensate, if only partially, the reduction in its output totaling 1.5 million barrels a day.

[Ghurab] What problems have you managed to resolve and what problems have still not been resolved in the oilfield?

[Al-'Amiri] The greatest harm Kuwait has sustained as a result of the invasion is the cessation of its output, namely 2.5 million barrels a day, which, at current prices, means that Kuwait is losing $50-60 million as a result of the invasion—a huge revenue. As for how that revenue can be compensated for, the existing agreements among the GCC states must be referred to in order to back Kuwait in these difficult circumstances.

With regard to the oil tanker fleet, we were able to save them all and none of them fell into the invaders' hands. And the Kuwaiti oil tanker company is playing an active role and has not stopped working since the invasion. Some ships were heading for Kuwait to transport shipments of Kuwaiti oil abroad, and when we heard about the invasion we instructed them to change their routes and head for other destinations, thus managing to retain the tanker fleet of 35 ships.

Of course there are problems which cannot be resolved now. For example, all Kuwaiti companies inside the country are now nonoperational. The three refineries in Kuwait are also nonoperational, and this has caused shortages in refined products throughout the world. And the Kuwaiti refineries are among the best in the world, especially after their modernization to increase their output.

[Ghurab] Do you have a clear idea of the scale of the damage to the oilfields, refineries, or oil installations in Kuwait?

[Al-'Amiri] It is no longer a secret to say that many of the oil installations and wells have been mined by the Iraqis. Furthermore much of the equipment, vehicles, machines, and instruments in the oil installations and Kuwait Oil Company warehouses and drilling rigs have been looted. The loss, therefore, is huge. But we pray to Almighty God to compensate us after the liberation. The invaders have even dismantled pumps, spare parts, and everything valuable. And after repatriation we will need a long period of time to rebuild Kuwait, that is if, God forbid, our oil installations are not sabotaged or blown up. [passage omitted]

Amir Returns From France, Britain

LD2510075890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2048 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 24 Oct, SPA—The amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, today arrived in al-Ta'if after visiting France and Britain. [passage omitted]

Oman

Husni Mubarak Arrives for Visit 25 Oct

JN2510080390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 25 Oct (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this morning arrived in Muscat on a brief visit to Oman within the framework of his tour of a number of Arab Gulf states.

The Egyptian president and his delegation were received on arrival by Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, the special representative of Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

Meets With Sultan, Departs

JN2510133490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received at the Sultanate Camp in [word indistinct] today his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of sisterly Egypt. [passage omitted]

The two leaders then held a two-hour closed meeting during which they reviewed bilateral relations and developments in the region. The two Arab leaders then discussed the results of the contacts and efforts made by both of them to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Gulf.

The two Arab leaders affirmed, during these talks, the importance of restoring Arab solidarity, mending the rift and closing Arab ranks.

His Excellency Muhammed Husni Mubarak left Oman this evening after a one-day visit to the Sultanate. His excellency was seen off at the sultan's private airport by His Highness Shaykh Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, the special representative of his majesty the sultan. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Mubarak Arrives in Doha for Talks

JN2410135190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi at noon today on a two-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour in the region.

THE QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that during the visit President Mubarak will hold talks with Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and several senior officials on bilateral relations and the current developments in the region.

Meets With Amir

NC2410162490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani held talks today in the amir's court in Doha. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs; and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz also conferred with their Qatari counterparts.

Our radio correspondent in Doha said that at the outset of their talks President Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah underlined the need for further joint Arab action to confront the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The two leaders stressed the need to end the aggression and restore the legitimate government in Kuwait. They voiced the hope that the crisis caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will be resolved peacefully and that war will be avoided. Mubarak and Shaykh Khalifah also discussed bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting ties.

Shaykh Khalifah will host a dinner banquet in Mubarak's honor following the talks.

Departs Doha 25 Oct

JN2510080090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Oct (WAKH)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this morning left Doha following a two-day official visit to Qatar.

During the visit, President Mubarak held talks with Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and senior government officials. The talks dealt particularly with the situation in the Gulf in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, in addition to bilateral relations and means to strengthen and improve them in all fields.

Amir Receives French Parliamentary Delegation

JN2410160490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 23 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Qatar, met here today a delegation representing the Defense Committee at the French National Assembly headed by Committee Chairman Jean-Michel Boucheron.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks during the meeting dealt with the regional situation, developments in the current crisis resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of the fraternal State of Kuwait, and the repercussions of this tyrannical invasion on the regional and international scenes.

The talks also revolved around the French position on the Gulf crisis. The French parliamentary delegation indicated that the French position is in agreement with legitimacy and the international community's will and supports the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions which condemn the Iraqi invasion, call for an immediate Iraqi troop withdrawal from the Kuwaiti territories, and demand a restoration of the sovereignty, independence, and legitimate Government of Kuwait represented by Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. The delegation also demanded the release of all hostages held captive in Iraq and Kuwait and affirmed its nonrecognition of the effects of the invasion.

During the meeting, they also reviewed the overall issues that are of concern to both sides, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, the Lebanese situation, and ways of bolstering and developing the ties of friendship and cooperation between Qatar and France.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Defense Minister Visits Units, Departs

LD2510094990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Gen. Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and military production in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the delegation accompanying him left the airport of King Khalid Military City this afternoon at the end of their visit to the Kingdom.

The minister had earlier visited the headquarters of the Egyptian troops in the frontline, where he was briefed on

the itinerary of the 3rd Mechanized Infantry Division from the Arab Republic of Egypt until its arrival in the Kingdom. He was also briefed on the combat mission of the division. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian minister then visited the Egyptian Sa'iqa [storm-troopers] Division stationed in the Kingdom and was received by its commander, who briefed him on the tasks and duties of the division.

Finance Minister, USSR's Katushev Discuss Ties

LD2510025790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of national economy and finance, today met with Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, and the delegation accompanying him. The two sides discussed cooperation and bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Praises Mubarak Stance

JN2410183890 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 24 (GNA)—The UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Egypt today affirmed their rejection of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and called for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

The call was made by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during talks on the Gulf crisis and on efforts to implement Arab and United Nations resolutions denouncing Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and demanding a pullout of Iraqi forces from the emirate.

A responsible source said: "The two leaders reaffirmed their firm and stated stand towards the Iraqi aggression against brotherly Kuwait and their rejection of this aggression and the need for a full and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah."

He said Shaykh Zayid expressed appreciation for Egypt's attitude towards the Gulf crisis, and described its position as a source of pride for all.

The talks also covered ways of bolstering relations between the UAE and Egypt, the source said.

Maktum Elected Vice President, Prime Minister

JN2110175090 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 21 (GNA)—The UAE Federal Supreme Council held today a meeting under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan.

The Council discussed topics on its agenda and decided to elect Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Dubayy Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid vice president for five years starting from October 21st 1990.

It also agreed on a proposal by Shaykh Zayid to name Shaykh Maktum prime minister.

The council discussed Gulf developments after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and Shaykh Zayid presented a thorough assessment of the crisis.

The Council listened to a briefing from the Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al Maktum and the Armed Forces chief of staff on the situation in the region especially in the military field. It discussed the general situation in the country and issued directions to consolidate the federation to serve development and the well being of the citizens.

Shaykh Zayid issued a decision appointing Shaykh Maktum prime minister.

The decision 2 for 1990 said: "I, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates, after taking note of the Constitution and the Supreme Council decision number 2 for 1990 concerning a prime minister, decided that Shaykh Maktum, vice president and ruler of Dubayy, is named prime minister of the UAE.

This decision takes effect from the date it is issued and is published in the official gazette."

Shaykh Zayid also presented a letter to Shaykh Maktum in which he officially asked him to form a new government and present proposals to him in accordance with the Constitution.

Information Minister Bans London-Based AL-'ARAB

JN2410171590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamid, minister of information and culture in the United Arab Emirates, issued a ministerial decree today banning the entry and circulation of the London-based newspaper AL-'ARAB. This decision was made because the paper publishes materials which violate the Press and Publications Law. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit of Egyptian President Mubarak

Views Salih Objection to League Move

NC2410125190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1133 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has commented on reports that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih objects to the transfer of the Arab League General Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. The president said: This is really odd since the Yemeni president had agreed with the other heads of state that the Arab League should return to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. He was even very enthusiastic about that decision.

The president continued: I do not know what changed his mind that quickly.

In a statement following his talks with Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, President Mubarak said: At any rate, the Gulf crisis has uncovered the truth about many stances. In the final analysis, it is a matter of principles. Egypt has demonstrated that it has upheld its principles and that it will continue to do so.

'Hawk' Aircraft Crashes; Pilot Killed

JN2110201490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Dubayy, 21 Oct (WAKH)—It was announced here tonight that a Hawk military aircraft belonging to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Air Force has crashed, killing its pilot, Lieutenant Muhammad 'Ali.

A statement issued by UAE Armed Forces said that the aircraft crashed this morning during a training sortie in UAE airspace and then crashed, martyring its pilot.

Algerian Media Interview Saddam on Crisis

LD2410141190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has given an interview to an Algerian media delegation upon its arrival in Baghdad. The delegation represents four national media organizations: the weekly EL MOUDJAHID; national television; Channel 3; and the weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITE.

During the interview, President Saddam Husayn answered various questions put forward by members of the delegation on a number of subjects, as well as questions regarding the development of the Gulf crisis.

Commenting on the United Nations Security Council's position and the economic blockade of Iraq, President Saddam said that the resolutions issued by the council show that it has been transformed into a body of the U.S. Administration. He pointed out that several member states of the council have called for peace and for peaceful ways of settling the Gulf crisis.

As to the economic blockade imposed by the United States and its allies, President Saddam Husayn emphasized the steadfastness of the Iraqi people, their determination to confront the various facets of the blockade, and their patience with hunger and sickness. He said: Our hope in God, as well as in our people and our homeland, is great.

The Iraqi president stated: The battle is singular. Democracy in Algeria is an expression of freedom in Iraq; pan-Arab consciousness in Jordan is like a loaded charge on the front line; and the revolution of our patient, struggling, and capable Palestinian people is a source of faith for the sons of our Arab homeland.

Turning to the question of international relations, President Saddam spoke of various imbalances in the structure and nature of these relations. He said that the absence of justice characterizes international relations and that the legality of force and economic domination have prevailed over all other values.

Reviewing the Western conspiracy against Iraq, the Iraqi president said that the U.S. economic blockade of his country did not begin after the events of last August, but rather has continued since the third month of this year in the form of pressure and provocations under various pretexts, including the claims that Iraq possesses dangerous chemical weapons, intends to produce a nuclear bomb, and so on.

President Saddam Husayn said the counterattacks by Iraq did not begin until it had lost hope in the possibility of rectifying matters by other means.

Concerning the possibility of settling the Gulf crisis by peaceful means and within an Arab framework after it has become complicated and taken a different course, President Saddam Husayn expressed hope in the possibility of an Arab solution to the crisis, as well as an international peaceful solution. In this respect, he renewed Iraq's commitment to the Iraqi initiative of 12 August, which comprises a comprehensive solution to the problems in the region. He called upon the Arab states to consider this initiative positively and to make a serious effort to implement it.

The Iraqi president then turned to the Palestinian cause, its tragic historical phases, and the suffering of the Palestinian people. He emphasized the connection between this issue, the Gulf crisis, and the conflict in the Middle East. He also stressed the connection between U.S. and Zionist interests in the Middle East.

Saddam Said Willing To Meet Bush, Hold Talks

NC2310131790 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 23 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is willing to meet his U.S. counterpart George Bush to examine the Gulf crisis, a visiting U.S. delegation chief said here Tuesday.

Dr. Salim Mansur told a news conference that Mr. Husayn suggested either a U.S.-Iraqi summit or direct talks at foreign minister-level to examine the Gulf crisis and ways of achieving peace and stability in the Middle East.

'Secret Documents' Detail CIA-Kuwaiti Relations

LD2410222190 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Secret documents show the horrible details about the suspicious relation between former Kuwaiti rulers and the American CIA and their role in conspiring against Iraq and a number of the region's countries.

The document, within the context of a letter from the former Kuwaiti intelligence head [name indistinct] to the interior minister dated 22 November 1989, following a visit to the CIA Headquarters by the manager of [name indistinct] intelligence, unveiled that agreement was achieved for full coordination between the CIA and the Kuwaiti Government to implement the United States' interests in the region. They also agreed to benefit from the difficult economic conditions created by war to press on Iraq to draw the borders [as heard]. The document says that the former Kuwaiti Government received information from the United States of America about ways of using appropriate pressures on Iraq.

Papers Call on U.S. To Heed Calls for Peace

JN2210140890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers affirmed today that the large-scale demonstrations in

some capitals reflect the rejection of the people and world public opinion that the world become an American colony.

They agreed in their editorials today that the peoples of the world have opted to resist the destructive policies and search for a world where justice and peace prevail.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the extensive media campaigns organized by the U.S. and western media organs against the new and united Iraq have aimed at instigating U.S. and western public opinion against our people and country and promoting the military option.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the dirtiest psychological warfare full of grudge and viciousnes which was employed by the U.S., western, and Zionist media aroused savage instincts. Talk about rallying military troops and war fleets against Iraq started invading the minds and ideas and taking control of public opinion all over the world.

It goes on to say that people's minds and awareness returned to their natural state after they ridded themselves of the effects of the media flood and mad psychological warfare. World awareness began to rise and reveal important aspects of the distorted and concealed facts and realize the nature of the battle, its dimensions, and its repercussions, all of which point to the fact that the war will be very expensive, long-lasting, and destructive, and that it could place the entire world before a real catastrophe.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the voices of those calling for peace have been activated and can now be heard. The big cities in the United States and the West now witness various popular activities condemning the war and call for dealing with the current crisis in the Gulf through peaceful political means.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH affirms that the demonstrations currently taking place in the world, some of which are sweeping the cities and capitals of the countries which are greatly involved in the Gulf crisis, reveal clearly the rejection of world public opinion not only of the possibilities of a destructive war in the region, but also the U.S. and western military intervention in the Arab region.

It says that the popular demonstrations, especially in the big countries, express the return of awareness of the firm facts which Bush and his media machine tried to ignore, the most important of which is the fact that war with Iraq will not be a picnic as some U.S. and British departments believe; it will be destructive and fatal.

The newspaper adds: One of the facts realized by U.S. public opinion is that that blood is dearer than oil, whose sources western and American states are trying to occupy and exploit at the cheapest possible price. This realization has placed the Bush Administration in a real dilemma after it based its invasion of the Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] on the hopes of popular U.S. and western approval of this immoral and inhuman action.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that when Iraq decided to enter the battlefield until the end and challenge the U.S. control, it was not proceeding in its calculations only from moral, struggle, and pan-Arab stands, but because it adheres to pan-Arab and national stands, some of which are the return of Kuwait to the mother Iraq and fighting the U.S. invasion and massing of foreign fleets.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the number of those calling for the withdrawal of the invading troops from our Arab land and waters and the need to lift the oppressive siege from our people and adhere to dialogue and negotiation will soon increase, thus imposing on the war-mongering decision-makers the need to listen to them.

It says the comprehensive Arab awakening, expressed by the masses of 2 August and onwards, to reject the U.S. and Atlantic invasion of our Arab lands and the unjust resolutions which have been issued under the influence of the U.S. Administration, could also be a human awakening.

AL-JUMHURIYAH advises those aggressors seeking to harm the interests of their people to opt for peace and respond to the calls of the people and leave the Arab territories and their people to run their affairs as their masses wish.

Concluding its article, the newspaper says that when we call for peace we believe in it. Therefore, it should be clear that Iraq is competent in fighting the aggression and defeating it. When the warmongers do not heed the calls of their people, they will face their end in the challenge arenas they have chosen.

The newspaper AL-IRAQ calls on world countries to exert efforts and struggle to reject the imposed policies and confront the policy of U.S. conspiracy.

It says the features of the new U.S. plan, drawn up by the White House and Pentagon circles, have slowly started to appear since the military fleets and ships anchored in the Arabian Gulf waters, invaded the Arabian Peninsula, and besieged and controled the oil sources which guarantees them full control over the largest oil reserves in the world.

The newspaper reveals the features of this new international order which are represented by controling the International Security Council and directing it in a way that harmonizes with the U.S. decision and objectives, affirming U.S. efforts and feverish attempts to pressure numerous countries in Europe and Japan and extract a resolution that would provide international cover for the actions of the U.S. Administration and its aggressive activities.

The newspaper points to the dangers posed by the new international order, whose banner is raised by President

Bush, on the U.S. society and the international community and the dangerous results and effects it has on the international situation. It says the Bush Administration is proceeding with its conspiratorial plan without worrying about the calls for caution from everywhere in the world, especially the United States itself, which affirms the aggressive nature of this administration to drag the world into huge dangers with bitter results.

AL-'IRAQ stresses that all world countries are called on at this time when the siege, war, and boycott is being stepped up by U.S. imperialism to exert efforts, struggle toward rejecting the imposed policies, and work toward distancing the people from the dangers of war and averting the disaster the U.S. Administration is planning for.

Resistance Leader Discusses Strategy, Prospects

AU2310104790 Vienna KURIER in German 23 Oct 90 p 5

[Stefan Galoppi report on interview with Mohamed Alheidari (spelling as published), "second man" of the "Islamic Revolution in Iraq" resistance group, who fled to Tehran in 1980; place and date not given;]

[Text] Mohamed Alheidari said:

—On the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Iraq: "We would have preferred it if this had not happened. Our work is not necessarily endangered by this. If need be, we can move elsewhere: Syria—and now also the Gulf states—are willing to take us in."

—On the activities of the resistance: "We have unarmed groups, which distribute fliers to call the people in Iraq to the resistance and inform them about our demands. Our armed units are deployed mainly in the marshy areas in the south and in the mountains of northern Iraq. The regime has repeatedly used chemical weapons against them. We are also trying to establish resistance cells in the army to prepare a putsch. On 5 January 1990 we tried to carry out an attack on Saddam Husayn, which failed and was officially represented as a 'car accident.'"

—On the relationship with other resistance groups: "The Islamic and non-Islamic opposition are now jointly forming a front against Saddam. In Damascus we agreed on a four-point program on the future of Iraq: 1) After the overthrow of the regime, we will form a joint interim government; 2) We will establish a regular government through popular election as soon as possible; 3) We will guarantee religious and political freedom for the people; 4) We will restore rights to the Kurds and to all people who have been persecuted for racial and religious reasons. The 500,000 Iraqis who have been deported shall also return home."

—On the mood within the Army: "The regime controls the Army very strictly. However, the U.S. threat to destroy the war machinery of Iraq does a lot of damage to our efforts—because it engenders strong solidarity with Saddam."

—On the prospects for a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis: "Those who know Saddam know that he is only working for his own interests. He will withdraw from Kuwait only if he can be sure to remain in power. We believe that the majority of the Iraqis are in favor of recognizing Kuwait. And the entire opposition has called for a withdrawal. But the people are intimidated and almost unconscious after 20 years of reprisals; Saddam is a tyrant—we regret that he was supported by the West for such a long time."

—On the most effective action against Baghdad: "The best solution is a military and economic boycott. Previously 19 percent of foodstuffs were imported. Iraq can survive a boycott for six months at the most. The West should also cooperate closely with us."

Jasim Discusses Blockade, Solution to Gulf Crisis

JN2510093690 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Oct 90 p 6

[By Tal'at Rumayh]

[Text] As soon as I arrived in Baghdad, watched the Iraqi television, and listened to the Iraqi radio, I requested an interview with Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim. I did not see in Baghdad what I was expecting, nor a situation similar to that I saw in Egypt in the past, when people were mobilized through nationalist songs and speeches. Here, the television presents "peace" songs and normal medical and cultural programs. Perhaps the only unusual thing is that newscasts are now longer than usual.

The beginning of the interview was a mixture of inquiry and astonishment. In Egypt, the drums of war are being beaten, and nervous people follow updates on what is happening on the Iraqi border. Here, on the other hand, the radio and television broadcast normal songs. While people in Cairo are living on their nerves for Baghdad, people in Baghdad are singing!

I asked the Iraqi information minister: What is the matter?

He smiled and said: We have an eight-year experience. During those years, we suffered much pain and made massive sacrifices. Means of mobilization changed from time to time. Before embarking on any mobilization effort, we ask ourselves: What do we want? Do we want to get rid of fear? Do we want to raise the low morale of the public? Do we want to explain a vague fact? In light of the aim or aims we determine means of mobilization as appropriate. In the current situation, the issue is clear and the people are ready to show patience and make sacrifice, and they know their goals. Mobilization is not enthusiasm, speeches, and patriotic rhymes.

The tune must suit the situation. We do not beat the drums of war before the war actually breaks out. We do not continue to beat these drums so as not to break the people's nerves.

We make the citizen aware of all probabilities, including the complete evacuation of Baghdad and Basra to avoid a nuclear strike.

I said to the Iraqi minister: My second observation is that food is available and restaurants open normally, while we in Cairo hear that the Iraqis are hungry, searching for a piece of bread.

The minister smiled again, without it changing his expression, and said: The blockade, certainly, has its effect. We are rationing bread, and there is a shortage of medicine and difficulties in hospitals. With the passage of days, the blockade will hurt, but we are highly prepared to endure all hardship. And we have made large-scale consumption rationalization. I have not offered you tea; we do not offer it to guests.

He continued: The blockade is effective, but we are preparing to face it by unmatched measures. Even airport runways will not be left unplanted. At worst, we will be ready to live on bread and water only.

I said: Mr. Minister, I now come to a sensitive issue. You know the story of the Egyptians in Iraq and reports about their mistreatment, and so on.

Signs of irritation appeared on the man's face and he strongly denied any such thing. I do not believe this. not even one in a thousand, or even one in a million, he said. The Egyptians are our brothers. We shared our bread in the past and the present, and we will share it in the future. No sane man can believe that they may be intentionally mistreated.

I asked: And the remittances?

He said: In a certain year, these amounted to billions. But what can we do now under these circumstances and pressures?

He added: We love Egypt, its people, and its glorious past. Political changes never change our feelings whatsoever. And allow me to ask: Have the Iraqis turned into monsters overnight? The Iraqi, like any person, cannot kill a cat, let alone a brother.

I ask why and in whose interest some in Egypt are talking about bone-breaking and other things? Can any one imagine this? Brother, all this is false. You have a car, and you are welcome to tour Baghdad, and if you find a single case to support this claim, tell me immediately, and you will see what we will do.

Note: I learned from an official source here that the mortality rate [among Egyptians in Iraq] is completely normal, but the problem is that in the rush of events, some bodies were buried in Iraq without informing the Egyptian Embassy. This is all that had happened. The return of Egyptians is due to the halt of remittances at this stage, the fear of war, and the tension in the Egyptian-Iraqi relations.

I said to the Iraqi information minister: Please tell me the meaning of all this self-confidence which I find everywhere here.

He said: I honestly tell you that this high spirit is a result of the pan-Arab depth and the state of Arab nationalism around us. We were impressed with Egypt's performance in 1956 and 1967. We were proud of the Egyptian soldier and leadership. We grew on the principles of the Ba'th party and the voice of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. When he spoke, millions of Arabs took to the streets declaring their defiance to injustice. Millions of Iraqis used to take to the streets.

Now we have invoked our Arab and Islamic depth, and this is the source of our self-confidence. We accept our fate and believe that what God has decided for us is the best. We accept our fate as we face all this buildup.

[Rumayh] This is about the United States. But what about our immediate enemy? What do you expect from Israel?

[Jasim] The Zionist enemy is lying in wait for the historic opportunity to attack Iraq. This is always in our mind, day and night, and it does not worry us. Let it attack us, he said in a pure Iraqi dialect. But we will retaliate.

The minister looked at me with some bitterness and said: Our Egyptian brothers are criticizing me for my statements about the long war. He went back to what he was saying: If war breaks out, Israel or the United States will launch a quick strike against us. But—and this is not out of love for war—we will turn it into a long war that exhausts the Israelis and the Americans and revolutionizes the Arab street. And I tell my brothers in the Egyptian media that we believe in peace. We have children and families that we do not want to suffer. But if war breaks out, we will defend ourselves. Even the cat scratches.

[Rumayh] Mr. Minister, how can the Arab nation get out of this whirlpool at minimal loss?

[Jasim] The nation will move to the better, God willing. Now there is separation of trenches between right and wrong, between those who want to jump on the U.S. bandwagon and those who want a distinct Arab role. We stress that if the U.S. spears had not come to the Gulf, the Arabs would have sat together and found many solutions. The Arabs are intelligent and fair, and can find just solutions.

[Rumayh] With your permission, what is the solution?

[Jasim] The most important thing now is to concentrate on the Arab solution, provided that the Americans leave. Let the Americans leave and then everything will become easy. Yes, for the Arab solution away from U.S.

spears. There can be no talk about an Arab solution in the presence of U.S. forces. If they want an international solution, there is President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which links the issue to all other issues in the region.

Further on French Nationals' Release

Envoy Comments

JN2410155690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] For further information and clarity on the reality of the Iraqi position and to know the basis of the Iraqi initiative to release the French nationals, we today posed some questions to Iraqi Ambassador in Paris 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi. We first asked the ambassador whether the Iraqi initiative was the result of an agreement or negotiations held between Baghdad and Paris. His answer was:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hashimi] There was neither an agreement nor negotiations between the two governments on this subject. The measure was a decision by Iraq as a result of positions adopted by the French Government recently which have reflected France's positions calling for solving the problems of the Middle East and the Gulf peacefully without resorting to force. This in addition to a tone that was not hostile to Iraq—and this tone was clear in President Mitterrand's UN speech, in the many demonstrations that were staged in the French cities through which the French citizens expressed their desire to peace and to solve the problem peacefully, and also in the old Iraqi-French relationship and Iraq's desire to maintain this relationship and to develop it in the future. All these factors were taken into consideration when the decision was made to allow the French nationals to leave Iraq.

[Reporter] Do you expect the arrival of a French official in Baghdad to supervise the departure of the French nationals?

[Al-Hashimi] In fact, so far, I have no details. I will have a meeting at the French Foreign Ministry to discuss these details. It is certain that the French Government expressed its desire that the departure of the French nationals would be through cooperation between the two governmenst, not through a third party.

[Reporter] Some French personalities, including Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the National Front, announced their readiness to travel to Baghdad to receive the French nationals. Is there a possibility to accept such a move?

[Al-Hashimi] No, of course, because the agreement reached with the French Government that the return of the French nationals will be implemented through the two governments, not through a third party.

[Reporter] Thank you, Your Excellency the Ambassador.

[Al-Hashimi] Thank you very much. [end recording]

A short while ago, Ambassador al-Hashimi noted that an Iraqi plane will transfer the French nationals from Kuwait to Baghdad, where those who are in Baghdad will board the plane, and then it will continue on to France. The Iraqi ambassador believes that this process might end before the end of this week.

Papers Praise Action

JN2510105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers issued here today have stressed that Iraq's policy is based on principled action and behavior aimed at pushing forward the peace process in the region through dialogue and common understanding over regional issues and their link to world peace and security.

In editorials and analytical articles, the papers say that granting the French guests the freedom to leave or stay in Iraq is a step by the leadership and representatives of the Iraqi people to underline this principled and human policy.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says in an editorial entitled "Another Iraqi Step Toward Peace", that world governments and public opinion can understand that the step generally reflects a genuine desire for a genuine peace, not only with France, but also with the states and governments that embroiled themselves in a tough and hostile position toward Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper says the initiative reflects a positive assessment of the development of the French position toward the Gulf crisis and an added appreciation of France's honorable stances toward Arab issues, especially during the past 10 years. France stood by Iraq during the eight-year war and played a prominent role among the Western countries in seeking a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis and a just peace for the Palestine question. This is in contrast to the U.S. bias in favor of the Zionist entity.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an analysis under the headline "An Initiative for the Sake of Peace", that the initiative opened what appears to be wide doors for deeper interaction between Iraq and the French public opinion, which has risen up to oppose the U.S. cries of war and ask the French Government to take more independent positions, removed from the influence of the United States, which is seeking to use the crisis to impose control on oil sources, colonialist hegemony on the region, and oil policies on world nations with a view to countering the economic and political power of united Europe.

The paper expresses hope that the initiative will echo as widely and positively among the French official circles as it did among the French masses.

AL-JUMHURIYAH discusses the international desire to handle the region's problems diplomatically and

peacefully, and says the United States and Britain are beating the drums of war more than others. Peace-loving nations, however, reject the logic of war and hegemony, and this even applies to the peoples of the two mentioned countries, who oppose the logic of war and aggression.

The paper discusses the principled peaceful intentions of Iraq's policy and says the 12 August initiative proves these intentions, which were expressed on several occasions, the latest of which was during the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and the Bulgarian Vice President, when his excellency said: We believe that war, whose drums are being beaten, does not solve the region's problems. What solves these problems, however, is dialogue and the adoption of one standard to bring about peaceful solutions to all problems.

Food Shipment to Kuwait for Indians Approved

BK2410163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Iraqi Government has granted permission to transport foodstuff from the Indian ship Vishva Siddhi to Kuwait for distribution among the 10,000 stranded Indian nationals. Arrangements are being made to send material within the next three days.

Commander Leaves Baghdad for Tehran 24 Oct

JN2410135390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today for Tehran.

Nation Supports League Transfer Postponement

JN2210190790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 22 Oct (INA)—Iraq today handed the Arab League Secretariat an official memorandum regarding its acceptance of the request made by the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union to postpone the implementation of the measures related to the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Tunisia to Egypt at the current time.

In the memorandum, Iraq said its position was based on its sincere belief that current Arab conditions will prevent the Arab League from fulfilling its pan-Arab duties if its headquarters were transferred to Cairo, since the conditions of neutrality and objectivity must be provided by the host country.

During their meeting in Algiers, the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union states adopted a decision to stop the measures relating to the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo at the current time in order to preserve Arab reconciliation and prevent Arab division.

Salih Meets Japanese Friendship Official

JN2410065490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with Yansi Satu [name as received], counselor of the Arab-Japanese Friendship Society.

The National Assembly speaker explained that the Iraqi people and the entire Arab people strongly and firmly oppose all forms of foreign presence in the holy land, explaining that this stand is shared by all Islamic and fair-minded, peace-loving peoples.

He noted that the United States and its allies have gone too far in the implementation of their evil schemes and attempts to control the oil sources. He said this has stirred confusion in the world oil market and created panic among international economic circles—something which threatens the world with an economic crisis whose signs have already begun to appear.

The National Assembly speaker stressed the Iraqis' ability to abort the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy and to confront the threats of the U.S. and Atlantic forces which desecrate the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Satu expressed the Japanese people's support for resolving the region's problems through peaceful means and without any form of foreign intervention.

Tariq 'Aziz Says Release of Japanese Unlikely

OW2410034990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 23 (KYODO)—Iraq decided Tuesday to release all French citizens it has detained since its invasion of Kuwait in August, and plans to release all detained Bulgarians, too, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) said Tuesday.

But Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz suggested to a Japanese expert on the Middle East that Iraq would not free Japanese hostages because of Japan's policy against Iraq.

The INA report said the Iraqi National Assembly approved Tuesday a proposal to release some 330 French kept in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait presented by President Saddam Husayn the previous day.

A BBC broadcast said some French aircraft are ready to fly to Baghdad to pick up the released French nationals.

Husayn in his policy announcement on the release of the French nationals on Monday praised France for rejecting antagonistic actions and the use of force against Iraq by the United States.

The Iraqi president last month welcomed a four-stage peace proposal offered by French President Francois Mitterrand at the United Nations General Assembly to solve the Persian Gulf crisis as well as other Middle East problems, including the Palestinian issue.

Husayn was also quoted by INA as saying the National Assembly should discuss his suggestion to free all 700 Bulgarians detained by Iraq.

Bulgarian Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev met Husayn on Tuesday and urged him to release Bulgarian nationals.

The Iraqi foreign minister, however, said in Baghdad on Tuesday that he could not explain to the Iraqi people about the possible release of the Japanese because of the Japanese Government's policy against Iraq.

In a meeting with Wasuke Miyake, chief executive of the Middle East Institute of Japan, 'Aziz said Japan has only supported the United States, whereas France and the Soviet Union are making efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, Miyake said upon arriving in Amman from Baghdad.

'Aziz also said Iraq's national dignity was damaged by the Japanese refusal to invite Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-din Ma'ruf to the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Akihito on November 12, Miyake said.

Japanese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit

Makes Statement to INA

JN2410164090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] (Mohamed Hussein) Inoki, member of the Japanese House of Councillors, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the member of the Japanese House of Councillors said that he will hold talks with officials of the Iraqi National Assembly on bilateral ties. He added that he will also discuss with them developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

The Japanese official was welcomed at the airport by officials from the National Assembly.

Meets With Salih

JN2510165790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with the Japanese parliamentary delegation led by Mohamed Hussein Inoki [name as received], chairman of the Sports and Peace Committee in the Japanese House of Councillors. The Assembly speaker affirmed the Iraqi people's belief in peace and justice in light of their deep-rooted civilization, guided by the thinking of their brave leader President Saddam Husayn and his continuous struggle to achieve peace in the region and the entire world.

Salih noted that the Iraqi and Japanese peoples are linked through strong relations that stem from the common ethical values and their love for positive and peaceful interaction among nations in addition to the relations of cooperation that are based on respecting the mutual interests of the two nations in all fields.

Inoki expressed his denunciation of the unjust economic blockade against the Iraqi people. He noted that starving nations and threatening them with armed force will push the world to the brink of war whose effects will be dangerous to mankind, international relations, and the world economy. He noted that he is bringing with him a symbolic quantity of children's milk to contribute to breaking the economic blockade against the Iraqi people, for whom he harbors heartfelt feelings of friendship and good will.

The National Assembly speaker thanked Inoki for his humanitarian initiative, affirming that the people and leadership of Iraq consider this good initiative an earnest contribution to strengthening ties of friendship between the Iraqi and Japanese peoples.

Ramadan Receives Sweden's Martin Delegation

JN2410150490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasim Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received a Swedish peace messengers delegation led by George Martin. During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister stated that a genuine and just peace cannot be achieved through the concentration of fleets, military forces, and war equipment. He said the United States is responsible for the instability since it wants to control the world. He affirmed Iraq's rejection of the U.S. policy of extortion and hegemony.

He added that the Iraqis, who possess a cultural and human heritage throughout history, adhere to their independent will and their conviction that they will defeat all forms of economic embargoes and military threats.

The first deputy prime minister asserted that the war advocates will be defeated by the peace advocates. He praised the move of the European public opinion and its rejection of the war policy led by the aggressive U.S. Administration.

The head of the Swedish peace delegation praised the high morale of the Iraqi people, who are leading a normal life with profound confidence in victory. He said this morale is one of the weapons that defeats the war advocates.

He added that the Western peace caravan, whose groups have begun arriving in Iraq, will increase to include all sectors of the West European community in order to

affirm to the world that the world public opinion is against war, to prove that it rejects all the forms of blockade that have been taken against the Iraqi people, and that it is backing Iraq and its sincere, clear peace efforts.

Greek Peace Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

JN2410132490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—A Greek peace messengers delegation led by Akis Tsokhatzopoulos, secretary general of the PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] party, Greek parliament member, and former interior minister, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said that during the visit, he will meet with a number of Iraqi officials to discuss relations between the two countries and the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. He stressed the need to resort to peaceful dialogue to resolve all the region's problems away from the use of force that would escalate tension.

Vice President Leads Bulgarian Delegation

Statement Made to INA

JN2210185990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Atanas Semerdzhiev, vice president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria's State Council, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on an official four-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the INA, the Bulgarian vice president said he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on ties of cooperation between the two countries and exchange views on the current conditions in the Arabian Gulf.

He stressed the need to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis through peaceful means without resort to the use of military force, noting the importance of this vital part of the world.

He was received upon arrival by Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council member and vice president; Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

The delegation accompanying the Bulgarian vice president comprises Ivan Krustev, minister of construction, architecture, and urban development; Krustyu Khrustuv [name as received], adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister; and other Bulgarian officials.

Meets Ramadan

JN2410192390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Bulgarian Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties, stressing the importance of continuing joint action to explore new spheres that will contribute toward enhancing the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly states—ties that have become extensive and strong over the past years.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the development witnessed by Iraq under His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn in the economic, scientific, technological, and armament spheres. He also referred to Iraq's adherence to its independent decisionmaking and free will and to its defense of the Arab wealth stolen by the United States. He affirmed that this development worries the Americans, the Zionists, and their allies, and has prompted them to use all means and ways to obstruct it. This was the reason which caused the United States to carry out its hostile policy directly after its slaves, servants, and agents failed to do this, Ramadan added.

The Bulgarian vice president paid tribute to the march of development being witnessed by Iraq. He affirmed that the strength of the Iraqi economy and its development despite the eight war years has rendered it an example to be emulated by all states. He added that this development has been attained thanks to the wise and prudent policy pursued through Iraqi development plans. He noted that Bulgaria opposes war and supports all efforts to resolve problems in the Arab region through peaceful means. He went on to say that foreign intervention further complicates these problems. He asserted that Bulgaria supports a just solution to the Palestine question, considering that it is the key problem in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Ministers Confer

JN2510080490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation, today met with Ivan Krustev, Bulgarian minister of construction, architecture, and urban works, and his delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed cooperation in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, and land reclamation and how to enhance this cooperation to benefit the two friendly states.

Vice Presidents Meet

JN2210190390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, this evening received Atanas Semerdzhiev, vice president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria's State Council. During the meeting, they reviewed the current situation in the Arabian Gulf and stressed the need to avert the specter of war from the region and the world. They also emphasized the importance of such meetings to discuss relations between the two friendly countries and the means to improve and strengthen them for the benefit of the two peoples.

The meeting was attended by Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction; 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation; Ivan Krustev, Bulgarian minister of construction, architecture, and urban development; Krustyu Krustuv [name as received], adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister; and the Iraqi and Bulgarian ambassadors to Bulgaria and Iraq.

Assembly Speaker Receives Italian 'Peace Messenger'

JN2210212690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, met this morning with Mr. Aldo Juzinaro [name as received], an Italian peace messenger.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed during the meeting the scope of the U.S. aggressive scheme against Iraq, pointing out that the United States had banned the sale of wheat, rice, and other foods to Iraq since last March and that its forces were heading for the Arabian Gulf region before the events of 2 August.

He said that the United States does not care about democracy or international legitimacy, but wants rulers who respond to its will and directives. He said the Iraqis and their leadership reject this policy.

He said that the U.S. blockade against Iraq actually began in March, when the United States stopped exporting food and raw materials to Iraq because it rejected U.S. hegemony and exposed the hostile U.S. policy toward the Arabs and the theft of their wealth.

The head of the Italian peace delegation asserted that public opinion in the West opposes war and the military escalation by the United States, which seeks to realize its ambitions and impose its hegemony on the world.

He said Western public opinion expressed its eagerness for peace through the marches, demonstrations, and slogans that spread throughout Europe. This public opinion realizes Iraq's willingness to bring about comprehensive peace in the region, he added.

He praised the care provided to Iraq's foreign guests and stressed that thousands of Europeans are prepared to be the guests of Iraq to help attain the peace called for by Iraq and to spare humanity the scourge of war.

Ramadan Receives Italian Peace Delegation

JN2410091290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received the Italian peace messengers delegation headed by Alberto Labite [name as received].

The first deputy prime minister stressed that the peace efforts exerted by popular organizations and professional unions throughout the world prove that the forces of peace and virtue are capable of besieging the camp of evil and war led by the United States.

Nigerian State Minister Arrives for Visit

Leads Delegation

JN2210201790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Mr. Zakari Ibrahim, minister of state at the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry, today arrived in Baghdad leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

He was received at the airport by Nizar Hamdun, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Nigerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Brings Message From Babangida

AB2410095290 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] President Ibrahim Babangida has sent a message to President Saddam Husayn of Iraq. The message centers on peaceful ways of resolving the Gulf crisis. It was delivered to the Iraqi leader in Baghdad today by the minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Zakari Ibrahim.

Departs 23 Oct

JN2410152190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Zakari Ibrahim, minister of state at the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry, and his delegation left Baghdad today following a two-day visit to Iraq.

The Nigerian official told INA that he conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida on the developments of the situation in the region and Nigeria's desire that the region's problems be resolved peacefully.

He was seen off at the airport by Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the Nigerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Shamir Office Disappointed by U.S. Inaction

TA2510091690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister's office is disappointed with the failure of the United States to veto last night's resolution of the Security Council. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that in a few days the Zamir Committee will publish its report containing the conclusions of the Israeli probe into the Temple Mount affair. Israel is willing to relay these conclusions to the UN secretary general. Pazner does not believe that the resolution endorsed by the Security Council will help solve the problem.

Shamir Response to Bush Factor in U.S. Stand

TA2510093990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 90 pp A1, 4

[Report by Shlomo Shamir, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] Last night, the United States gave its support to the Security Council resolution denouncing Israel for its refusal to accept a UN secretary general's delegation that would probe the circumstances of the killings on the Temple Mount. [passage omitted]

A central factor in the United States' argument that led to the decision to support the UN resolution was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's response to President Bush's appeal. On Tuesday, Bush sent Shamir a letter asking him to reconsider his position on the Israeli Government's approach to the UN delegation; Shamir's response was negative. [passage omitted]

Shamir's decision to reject President Bush's appeal was made without consulting with the cabinet or reporting to it. Although Shamir received the letter through U.S. Ambassador William Brown on Tuesday evening, no debate was held on the issue in the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday.

In the letter, which the prime minister's bureau defined as "conciliatory," Bush entreats Shamir at least to accept an envoy on behalf of the UN secretary general, to allow the issue to be taken off the agenda. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 October, in a report by U.S.-based correspondent Dalya Shehori and Moti Bassok and Avner Regev on pages 1 and 4, adds: "Yesterday, circles in the prime minister's bureau expressed wonder at the chill emanating 'from Bush and as far down as Tutwiler,' and they added that while the United States has neither hastened to denounce Syria for the slaughter perpetrated by its soldiers in Beirut nor demanded that a UN delegation be dispatched to Lebanon, it has been behaving oddly toward its strategic ally. The circles stressed that the position taken by the Senate and the Congress, and by leaders of the U.S. Jewish community, who have shown considerable support for Israel, has encouraged Shamir to adhere to his stands despite the U.S. pressure."]

Refusal To Accept UN Mission Unchanged

TA2510054990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Jerusalem says there is no reason for the Israeli Government to change its decision and now agree to accept a UN delegation. That is the reaction here today to the UN Security Council resolution. Our political correspondent Arye Golan is in the studio:

Good morning. There is still no official reaction in Jerusalem, but unofficially we were told this morning that last night's Security Council resolution contains positive and negative aspects. The positive news is that the resolution does not contain the condemnation and criticism of Israel existing in the previous one. On the other hand—and we heard our UN ambassador say this—clause 25, which permits sanctions against Israel, was not included in last night's resolution, but hovers over us because it could still be adopted in future sessions of the Security Council. Jerusalem expects further council meetings because, as we were told this morning: We will not agree to accept a UN mission despite all the resolutions. There is no reason for Israel to change its decision. Since the Security Council called on Israel to reconsider its decision, additional meetings and condemnations and perhaps even more than that are to be expected from the council if Israel reaffirms its old position. That is taken into account in Jerusalem.

Political sources told us a short time ago that the resolution had been expected, but Israel continues to stand firm on its vital interests and the unity of Jerusalem. Israeli sovereignty over the city is a most vital interest for us.

In reference to the United States, regret was expressed here that Washington did not veto the anti-Israeli resolution. However, the fact that it was responsible for softening the resolution is taken here to mean that the U.S. Administration now better understands how important Jerusalem is for Israel, that no Israeli concession is to be expected, and that Israel would not permit foreign intervention in the affairs of its capital. The sources also pointed out this morning that the murder of Jews in Jerusalem or the cruel massacre in Beirut a few days ago were not given any attention by the Security Council.

Ben-Aharon Says UN Resolution Ignored

TA2510070090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Friedman] We have always played down such UN resolutions, based on the policy set by David Ben-Gurion many years ago: It does not matter what the gentiles say; what matters is what the Jews do. Should we act in a similar fashion in relation to the latest UN resolution?

[Ben-Aharon] To my regret, yes. I believe you touched on a very important point, because now that the cold war is over one could have expected the two superpowers and other responsible states and governments—to the extent that there are such, and I hope there are—to begin a new era in their attitude to the United Nations, and especially the Security Council, and to stop using that institution as an instrument for political purposes that do not deal with the real issue at hand. We all remember that due to superpower competition, Israel used to pay a price for the large coalition made up of the Soviet bloc and the Arab-Islamic bloc, which also dragged with it the nonaligned bloc. We could have expected that situation to have become history, and that with the huge coalition put together against the tyrant of Baghdad they would have stopped using the United Nations for such purposes and would have focused on the really important issues, such as stopping aggression and banning nonconventional military power in countries such as Iraq.

[Friedman] What would you suggest, therefore, we do about that resolution? What should we tell the United Nations?

[Ben-Aharon] Ignore it, because it is a remnant of an era that we hoped had passed. It is possible that those who initiated the resolution and those who supported it, including our great friend the United States, miscalculated. They thought they could get it through the council quickly, thereby pleasing those who wanted to extract some price at Israel's expense. This was a wrong consideration, because it involved a central political and emotional issue for the State of Israel, Jerusalem.

[Friedman] This is apparently not the end of it. You are most certainly also aware of evaluations that if Israel stands firm in its refusal to receive the mission on behalf of the UN secretary general, then in 10 days or two weeks the Security Council will reconvene and again condemn Israel, but this time accompanied by sanctions. Does that make the situation more complicated for us?

[Ben-Aharon] No. First, that is not precise, and, second, that will not necessarily happen. It is not precise because, as was reported, the resolution did not include clause 25 of the UN Charter, which does not refer to sanctions but speaks about the need to heed the Security Council, and which could be a predecessor to a call to impose sanctions on Israel. I would like to believe that with that the affair is over, and that with the publication of the report by the commission of inquiry set up by the Government of Israel the issue will end.

[Friedman] I read this morning in HA'ARETZ that the political echelon knows that the commission puts most of the blame on the police command for not implementing Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo's instructions. Does the political echelon in Jerusalem already know what is written in the Zamir commission's report?

[Ben-Aharon] No, and I am surprised at newspapers that publish such reports. I am based in the Prime Minister's Office and the commission is situated here and is working intensively, yet nobody knows what it is going to report.

Government Urged Not To Misinterpret U.S. Aid

TA2410151290 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Oct 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The Defense Generosity and the Political Contribution"]

[Text] In the typical Israeli pendulum swinging from a state of panic to cheers and back again, the U.S. lawmakers' decision to almost unanimously approve additional defense benefits for Israel could be misinterpreted here. Some would rush to interpret this—or point out to their followers—as a sign of the Americans' caving in in the face of Israeli determination, mainly on the Temple Mount issue. The truth, however, is different, and so are the conclusions drawn from it.

Five years ago, the Reagan Administration, assisted by Israel's supporters in Congress, decided to grant Israel improved terms which would place Israel on a level with other U.S. allies who are not NATO members, and would allow it to enjoy the benefits of bidding for defense contracts, investments in research and development, and the leasing and supply of surplus military equipment. The main goal of this attitude was to allow the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to lean on the U.S. infrastructure that until then was at the disposal of NATO members, and to open the U.S. defense markets, mainly in Europe, to Israeli industry and services. The collapse of the Warsaw Pact, which made available plenty of U.S. weapons systems in Europe, has allowed Washington to offer some of the available weaponry to friendly armies of NATO members, such as Turkey, and others—nonmembers such as Israel and Egypt.

In an era of a rigid, and perhaps reduced, budget, the basis of these benefits is the desire to find ways to increase the military, technological, and industrial contribution to Israel's defense without directly burdening the budget. This was meant to be done without aid being expressed in specific budgetary terms, which might burden Washington in its dealing with other budgets and the cries for help from other countries begging for U.S. aid. To the Americans, Israel's security has been, is, and will be an essential component of any development of a political arrangement—but not a substitute for it.

That is why, particularly at a time when the Bush Administration—cooler in its attitude toward Israel than

was the Reagan Administration—is engaged in a difficult struggle with Shamir's government over political issues, it is interested in proving—and the Congress has traditionally been open to this—that it is not guided by the desire to sabotage Israel's security. Just the opposite: The two issues are intertwined. This is twice as true when Israel fears a possible Iraqi attack, and is worried by the significance of the giant U.S.-Saudi arms deal.

The certain advancement in the direction of complying with the IDF needs must not create illusions in the Israeli Government, neither on the need to make decisions on Israel allocating its own funds for security, nor on the need for political progress on the track where the American benefactor is awaiting an Israeli contribution.

Source Says Shamir Not Seeking Unity Government

TA2510101290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Oct 90 p A5

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not intend to establish a unity government in any eventuality—either against the backdrop of political developments or as a result of a coalition crisis and the fall of the government in a no-confidence vote. In either case, Shamir will opt for new elections.

In the wake of recurring reports regarding the establishment of a national unity government "in view of the situation," sources close to the prime minister explained his stand on the issue. The idea was voiced again yesterday, in connection with the escalation of the intifadah and the Palestinian knife-wielding. [passage omitted]

Shamir's aides said that Shamir is determined to allow the government in its present configuration—which is still open to Agudat Yisra'el and Moledet if they decide to join the coalition—to deal on its own with all the problems in the area of security and in other areas. He insists that there is no need to invite the Alignment to set up a national unity government.

Shamir does not believe that the time is right for new elections, but if a political crisis arises, he would prefer new elections to a unity government.

Labor Ready To Discuss Unity Government

TA2410120290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that if the prime minister and his Likud Party will propose the establishment of a national unity government in the current emergency situation, the Labor Party will discuss it seriously. Rabin said that recent events have demonstrated that the Likud leadership was harboring an illusion that the dispute with the Palestinians could be ended by force. Rabin said that the peace initiative launched by the former national unity government in May last year should be revived.

Security Sources Report 'New Stage' in Intifadah

TA2410080790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Security sources believe that what is currently happening in the territories and inside the Green Line is a new stage in the intifadah. The present terror wave will not pass quickly, according to that estimation. The extremist Muslims in the territories are very popular. Their leaflets, which call for murder and organizing mass riots, have extensive support. The Temple Mount incident was the instigator, they said.

'Firm Hand' Policy Implemented in Territories

TA2410110890 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Dani Sade]

[Excerpts] Israel witnessed a tense day of attacks, stabbings, and shootings yesterday. Senior circles used the term "Belfast" to describe the atmosphere, signifying a dead-end, merciless struggle, similar to that in Northern Ireland.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is prepared to stop Palestinian attacks against Israelis. It has also taken steps to calm Israelis and prevent acts of revenge against the Arabs, and has significantly beefed up its forces in the territories.

As an immediate step, Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday ordered the Green Line closed, barring Arabs from the territories from entering Israel as of this morning. Residents of the territories working in Israel will be sent back to their villages. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 October, in a report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin on page A1, adds: "It is estimated that the territories will remain closed for five to six days."]

It has also been decided to implement the policy of a firm hand against violence in the territories, and the police have been asked to take particular measures to prevent acts of retaliation by Jews against Arabs inside Israel.

The defense minister made his decision following the meeting of a broad forum last night. The discussion was attended by the defense minister, Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, the chief of the General Staff, the head of the Shin Bet, commanders of the IDF regional commands, the chief of police, Civil Administration officials, and other defense elements.

Minister Roni Milo said last night that the police must be aware of their duty and right to use weapons to defend their own lives and those of others. He added: "A swift reaction in the event of a life-threatening attack on police

or civilians is in accordance with the standing rules of engagement." [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 October in a report by Bradley Burston, Michael Rotem and Ron Kampeas on pages 1 and 10 reports that Milo also said "that he favors having fewer Arabs from the territories employed in Israel. 'To replace them, we have a large potential labor force of Jewish workers, especially new immigrants,' he told THE JERUSALEM POST."] [passage omitted]

As was said before, the IDF is deployed to deal with the situation. In the next few days, after the closure is lifted, residents of the territories inclined to terrorism will be barred entry. The list of people bearing green ID cards, indicating that the bearer is not allowed to travel inside the Green Line, will be expanded. Residents of the territories with a "security record," mainly people who have been convicted of membership in the PLO or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], will be barred from entering Israel. This will include people about whom intelligence information on hostile activity has been gathered.

The movements of key activists and potential suspects will be restricted inside the territories as well, and some of them will even have to report once or twice a day to police stations in the various districts.

The Shin Bet will deliver the lists of names to the IDF in the next few days, to enable it to prepare the special ID's.

At the same time, preemptive measures will be taken on the major roads leading from the West Bank to Israel. Defense sources noted that it is hard to hermetically supervise all the roads, but that it is possible to set up permanent checkpoints on major arteries and portable roadblocks on secondary roads.

The IDF will fortify its presence and patrols in trouble spots and will impose curfews on areas where violent acts are perpetrated, particularly if they involve attacks on traffic. The IDF has recommended that Jewish residents of the territories travel at night in convoys of at least two vehicles.

The special police deployment in Jerusalem will remain in force until after Friday prayers, at the least.

Paper Says Government Sowed 'Seeds of Hate'

TA2410174290 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Oct 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "How Long Will This Cycle of Violence Continue?"]

[Text] It seems that the series of violent incidents in our region is growing daily. On black Monday, 8 Octobe. a group of martyrs, whose number reached 21, fell on the Temple Mount. Two days ago a Palestinian youth from al-'Ubaydiyah killed three Israelis. Thus we are living in a cycle of action and reaction, which increases the bitterness and hatred on both sides. Despite the grief and sorrow in our hearts, our people feel that they are the victims. The Israeli people are enraged and agitated at the operation which claimed the lives of three Israelis. Thus, signs of despair and despondency have begun appearing among both peoples. What is happening today is not a match to determine who scores more goals. It is a bitter struggle in which innocent blood is being shed. There is no way out, except to return to logic and common sense and to emerge from the vicious cycle around which we are running.

If there are many reasons for these bloody events violently hitting us, one of the most important reasons is the inability of Israel's leaders to devise a formula by which the Israeli people are convinced that recognition of the Palestinian people and their rights, as well as the adoption of the principle of dialogue for settling the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, are inevitable. The second reason is allowing extremist and hardline Jews, such as Levinger and others, to take the law into their own hands and behave as if the occupied territories were a farm which they own and have the right to wreak havoc in it as they wish. Thus the Israeli Government sowed the seeds of hate and allowed political tumult and demagoguery to gain control of the Israeli street. The Palestinian people could not be angels in the face of this situation, which has continued for 23 years, but have reacted with the same amount of violence. Israel allowed Palestinian human rights to be violated, and this has led to frustration and despair among these people, who feel that they have lost their land and that their homes have been usurped.

Naturally we want to live with dignity on the soil of our homeland. We ask Israel to relieve the pressure from our kinfolk, because violence leads to further violence and extremism leads to more extremism. There is a popular proverb which says: There are those who eat chicken, and there are others who fall on the fence. A solution has to be found for the problem of the Palestinian people, who were left to fall on the fence for 40 years or more. What is a cause for shame and disgrace is that while the civilized world is living at the end of the 20th century, there are people in it who are deprived of their human rights as well as their divine right to live as other people of the world, in freedom and dignity.

In this region we are living with a real tragedy. Violence and bloodshed have become part of our life, as if we are being nourished by them. How ironic is it that we live on the land of peace and are deprived of the blessing of peace, as if a divine curse is chasing the region's nations. The Israeli and Palestinian people are living in real terror. It is violence that leads to the continuation of bloodshed. It seems that nothing will change in this region and that direct confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis will continue. To whose benefit is the continuation of this suffering and calamity?

The time has come where it is deemed necessary to end this conflict. If Israel has determined its essence, the

premise is for our kinfolk to regain their rights and land and reach a peaceful settlement that will secure for all their entity and existence.

Al-Husayni Signs 'Commitment,' Released on Bail

TA2410154390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni was released from detention a short while ago, one day before the release date set by the court. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that al-Husayni was released on bail after signing a commitment not to participate in disturbances.

Jerusalem police sources said that the investigation into the charges against al-Husayni would continue. Faysal al-Husayni was arrested more than two weeks ago [8 October] during the rioting on the Temple Mount, on suspicion of organizing the disturbances and being one of the main inciters.

Arab Workers Without Permits Under Scrutiny

TA2510055290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Economics and Planning Minister David Magen has announced the establishment of an interministerial committee to deal with residents of the territories who work in Israel without permits. Speaking in Tiberias last night, Magen estimated that 50,000 out of 110,000 Arabs who come to work inside the Green Line do not have permits.

The new committee, he said, will have the task of preventing the hiring of workers without permits. He said the team includes police and employment service officials.

Air Force Strikes 'Terrorist' Bases in Lebanon

TA2410182190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes attacked a terrorist target this evening in the al-Rashidiyah area in Lebanon. The targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base. The target served as a launch base for terrorist attacks. Katyusha rockets were fired at the Lebanese security zone from the western sector twice over the past two weeks.

Government To Allow Druze Into Navy, Air Force

TA2410152690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Oct 90 p 20

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] plans to incorporate 15 Druze soldiers in Navy combat units for the first time in its history. The move will be implemented in the next draft.

This decision is part of the new IDF policy toward Druze soldiers, the purpose of which is to substantially expand these soldiers' involvement in army units.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has recently endorsed, in an interim decision, the proposal raised by the head of the Manpower Branch and the chief of staff to allow Druze troops to join Navy and Air Force units, which have to date been closed to them with very few exceptions. Military sources have praised Minister Arens' decision.

Defense establishment sources have emphasized that discussions in this matter continue and that consideration will be given to the issue of the Bedouin soldiers serving in the IDF as well. "We have overcome several obstacles that have existed in the Army for years in this context," they said.

Levi Interviewed on Regional Issues

TA2310120190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Oct 90 p B2

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by 'Aqiva Eldar; place and date not given]

[Eldar] When you hear about a murder such as the one in Jerusalem the other day, what do you feel: revenge, rage, or perhaps a stronger urge to find an arrangement with the Arabs living among us—a desire to advance the peace process?

[Levi] First, I feel anger and pain. On one hand, I feel determination to prevent bloodshed, our primary duty. On the other hand, with no direct connection to this, I feel the need to promote understanding with international bodies, which have the ability not only to understand our position (often misunderstood because of certain interests that dictate the behavior of countries and superpowers), but also to convince others of the justness of our cause. This must be done in order to force the Arab countries to end the state of war against Israel, because this is what is needed today. You may say that while such and such a problem needs to be solved, as long as the state of war continues it is as if you have done nothing. We must fight terror as if there were no political mission, and we must fulfill the political mission not as if there were no terror, but despite the fact of its existence.

[Eldar] An act by an isolated individual—sane or insane—cannot be prevented. Do you favor imposing harsher punishments, such as capital punishment, to prevent others from committing similar acts?

[Levi] We must not isolate each case or see it as the act of a madman. These criminal acts must be seen in the context of what the leadership, here and in Tunis, is promoting, and we must realize that these events are not isolated instances involving frustrated, distressed, or outraged individuals, but are in fact missions. Today everyone is aware of the leaflets calling for the killing of

every soldier, every settler, every Jew. We must realize that the direct outcome of these calls is out and out murder. The question, therefore, is not one of punishment—I have supported capital punishment and even raised the issue in the cabinet—but of what must be done to prevent and fight terror, because there is no peaceful coexistence with it. Anyone who believes that moderation will prevent such occurrences could become the victim of them. There have been many moderates who entertained the ideal of "flowers instead of guns" and fell victim.

[Eldar] You spoke of interests dictating the moves of different countries. Do you mean that the United States voted for the resolution condemning the Temple Mount affair as a result of Arab constraints?

[Levi] First, let us make a distinction: Let us not talk about 'constraints' with regard to the Arabs, too. The United States has a problem; it is overly sensitive to its partners in this coalition in order to defend them. It is very sensitive because it does not want anyone to get upset. I believe that the partners, the Saudis in particular, need the United States more than it needs them.

[Eldar] Does the United States not know this?

[Levi] Of course it knows. I would be the last to belittle the U.S. ability to know. At the same time, when certain Arab states side with it against Saddam Husayn, it attributes tremendous significance to this. It views this as a kind of guarantee to prevent the Islamic world from turning against it, to prevent its struggle against the Saddam aggression from being interpreted as a war on the whole Arab world. This has a price tag attached. To this one may add other countries—not necessarily Arab but nonaligned countries, certain European countries—which every now and then tend to carry out what is called an independent policy, despite their ties to the United States. Others want to take the opportunity to show their sensitivity to human rights issues, although they are being selective. Thus, on the one hand, Israel finds itself hurt by the conduct of a friend such as the United States, while on the other hand, it needs to stand firm against all the hypocrites who push for sanctions against it and do not even bother to strike a balance when something happens to us and pretend not to see when terrible things happen around us.

To those who may at this point rise and say: Does this mean that the whole world is against us? I say: Do not deal in cliches; keep your eyes wide open. Should we despair? No. Should we attack the whole world and isolate ourselves? No. We must be firm in our position, must argue, must try to persuade. True, this could be difficult and painful because, as I said before, this whole issue is swathed in hypocrisy. But we have no choice: We must not leave the stage, must not cease to explain, must not reach a crisis with a friend. An argument—yes; a break—no. We must remember that there is a lot of injustice in this struggle. We should, however, take Maalox and fight this to the end.

[Eldar] Is it possible that in the case of the UN Security Council condemnation, the U.S. stand could have been different had an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue—to which you were opposed—been held these very days in Cairo?

[Levi] I do not accept that. Someone might even say that had such a dialogue been held, Saddam would not have risen. There is no end to that. It has been proven that the Palestinian problem is not the cause of all the tension and instability in the Middle East. There are other difficult problems—problems involving countries with huge arsenals. Saddam Husayn took advantage of a certain situation. I said at the United Nations: In your fear of Khomeyni, you created this monster [last word in English] and supplied it with huge amounts of weapons, money, and technology. And here again we face what we thought was over: The lust of the kingdom of the Euphrates and Tigris facing the kingdom of the Nile. On the other hand, there is Syria, with its still unsatisfied desires, and other unstable regimes, easy prey for such tyrants.

[Eldar] The question, however, is: Have we not turned the Palestinians into easy prey by freezing the peace process and pushing them against the wall? Were a dialogue under way, perhaps they would have things to lose and would behave differently?

[Levi] Do not confuse the PLO with the Palestinians. The PLO, with the help of several European and other countries, has tried to present the image of a pacifist and pledged to the Americans that it will no longer use terror. Has it kept its word? They failed on the Nizzanim beach, and we know what could have happened there had they not failed.

The moment someone like Saddam popped up, we saw the direction in which the PLO ran. Nothing ever changes 'Arafat, because he still clings to the same concept. Look at the hospitality with which Mubarak received him in Cairo. Mubarak did things that escalated the tension and caused Egypt to stray from its commitments to us and almost let the PLO in through the back door. And what has (Mubarak) gained? Did ('Arafat) not cheat him? Did he respect his hospitality? And things will yet become even clearer.

[Eldar] Is it not possible that 'Arafat acted the way he did because the political process he launched two years ago in Geneva had reached a dead end, which made him give in to the extremists in his camp?

[Levi] This reminds me of the tale of Little Red Riding Hood. What do they want? Do they want me to believe that 'Arafat is some kind of innocent grandmother? No argument can change the fact that this is a terror organization which has set its sites on achieving its goals, one way or another. If someone asked me: Can it really wipe out Israel? I would say: Not at the moment, but if given the opportunity, if given a state?... No one lives according to a timetable. We should remember what we said about the Iraqis 20 years ago. People used to brag here: Who are the Iraqis? We came and defeated them;

they are primitive; and so forth. But look at their advancement over the past decade: They have come far; they now threaten the whole world. Well, maybe "the whole world" is an exaggeration, but Iraq is a threat to the economy of the whole world and to its neighbors. The Iraqis are threatening us, playing by rules that exceed even the law of the jungle, and we must not take them lightly. I have been taking Arab threats seriously ever since I can remember.

[Eldar] Do you fear the possibility that in the wake of some kind of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the Americans will go away and leave us facing the Iraqi threat, perhaps even a nuclear threat?

[Levi] No one can say for certain what the free world, led by the United States, will do. The free world's interests were in jeopardy. The United States came to the rescue not of the democratic Kuwaiti regime and not even of the Saudis; the U.S. President has pledged not only to his people, but to the whole world, to eliminate the threat. I found a similar determination in meetings and closed conversations I held with European foreign ministers and in the United States. They are aware of the fact that the threat will not be over as long as Saddam stays in power and that it will be impossible to assemble the same coalition again. If an arrangement is reached that leaves Saddam Husayn and his war machine intact, it would leave an ongoing threat to other, pro- Western regimes.

It is a small wonder that the Arab countries are in a panic. We are witnessing a repetition of the old pan-Arab anti-Western concept, coupled with the twist of an almost blind, extreme fundamentalism which has captured the hearts of the lower socioeconomic strata. I said in the talks that if this happens, the result will be that he will not even need to make threats; they will come to him on their knees. This will happen if he and his war machine remain in power and if it turns out that the entire armada threatening him was simply afraid of its own shadow. It is not that we want war, but there is a tangible threat to everything around us.

[Eldar] In that case, how do you feel about President Bush's remarks, in his letter to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, for example, about the need to find a political solution?

[Levi] I can show you statements issued by Arab countries, which view Saddam as a terrible threat to their regimes, and they would tell you that this is an issue for the Arabs to settle among themselves. So what? Do they see the danger and comprehend its long- and short-term significance? Yes. Are they prepared to confront this danger? Yes. Will it (the arrangement) come about? It could go either way. I cannot say for certain that it will happen or when it would be.

[Eldar] What you are actually saying is that no political solution could satisfy the moderates, us included?

[Levi] We issue no dictates and proffer no advice. I told some member of an editorial staff in New York that we have stopped thinking. We think about our own security. You adopted your resolutions without consulting with us, and you have no intention of asking us about future acts. All we need is for someone to interpret a given situation, even an assessment, to mean that Israel wants someone else to conduct its wars for it. Some people are waiting just for that.

[Eldar] Perhaps there is some connection between the U.S. charge that Israel is—or certain Israeli personalities are—responsible for the freeze in the peace process and the tension in U.S.-Israeli relations. Perhaps the situation in the territories contributed to this?

[Levi] Those who talk about a peace process must not only view the narrow block called "Palestinians." This is a problem to contend with, I agree, but it is likewise necessary to take a broad look at things and note the dangers. For Israel, it is a matter of survival. Things should be addressed exactly like the concept that underlines the talks between NATO and the Warsaw Pact members. The same logic should apply here as well, namely: First, the state of war should be terminated, then problems can be resolved politically.

[Eldar] Is this currently acceptable to the United States?

[Levi] I believe so.

[Eldar] Do you not think that even if our arguments, as you mentioned them now, were right, perhaps we erred in that we failed to give in here and there—for example, with regard to the participation (in the delegation for the negotiations) of a Palestinian who resides in the territories but owns a grocery store in East Jerusalem?

[Levi] No, I disagree with that. No one disputes the fact that we have an argument. Am I here to gloss over it? And have our relations not reached a nearly destructive tension point? True, we have ties and relations in a variety of fields, and there is a reason why we are called allies. When put to the test, you can see for yourself what happened in the Senate and Congress' attitude toward us. It is not in the style of "Let us replace Israel with some other partner."

[Eldar] Do you feel that some hard feelings remain?

[Levi] The Americans may feel this is so, but no doubt they also do a little soul-searching of their own and have their own calculations in mind. Let me give you an example: I told Pickering: "Look, suppose we had ignored things and had opted for what you call the more lenient approach; the trend was to introduce the PLO through the back door, so that 'Arafat would willy-nilly have sat in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Husayn in Amman, and Saddam Husayn in Baghdad." I asked him: "What would Israel's predicament have been then? Would it have been possible then to talk about an early warning or a coalition to protect us?" He replied: "You would not have fallen into such a trap." I told him: "If you yourself call it a trap, that is all I want, and I am happy."

[Eldar] Did it ever occur to you to offer something substantial to the Palestinians now, even without waiting for the Gulf crisis to be resolved, something that might prompt them to find an alternative leadership to the PLO? Maybe some political role at the end of the process?

[Levi] What we should be most interested in is the kind of situation that will be created in the Middle East after Saddam Husayn, and how central Israel's place will be after any change. This is not a time to sit back and do nothing. I read everything, including what has been written about the low profile and the allegations that our status has declined and that we are no longer being taken into consideration. I deny all of that. One should never forget that the threat is aimed directly at us; not in the even that we should attack Iraq, but because of the sanctions the Security Council decides on at the behest of the United States. The phrase low profile sounds good, but not when it comes to lowering our self-esteem. If we are allies, we must be apprised of the situation that will be created after the resolution of the crisis.

Second, I never thought we would adapt to sitting in the corner or to anyone forcing us to sit there. I therefore demanded that whatever praise was lavished upon Israel for its policy should be made known to the American people—not from my mouth, but from their own leaders. This was done in a joint statement, not in private. Admittedly my approach is oftentimes diplomatically uncommon or unusual, but this is right. In these matters there is no room for cosmetics. When the secretary of state and I appeared together, I talked openly about consultations, coordination, and commitments; he confirmed all that and spoke in the same tone, mentioning also the pledge that our qualitative edge should not be shaken and that Israel needed to be updated and consulted. That was what I had demanded of the Americans, and it was ultimately accepted. There have subsequently been deliberations and there is a commitment in certain areas—all this is not a secret.

[Eldar] Can you give me an example?

[Levi] There is the U.S. presidential undertaking to guarantee Israel's qualitative edge.

[Eldar] Meanwhile, they are giving the Saudis weapons worth $20 billion.

[Levi] The deal's value was slashed by 50 percent, and it will decrease even further, according to the information I have. This entire business is being dealt with right now; our ambassador is involved in it as well, in a bid to examine its short- and long-term effects and to find ways to preserve our edge. There are a lot more issues which I am not at liberty to discuss.

[Eldar] Does all this not imbue you with a greater sense of security? Do you not feel now that you can be more generous toward the Palestinians so that—according to your scenario—an alternative, more moderate leadership can grow?

[Levi] There is no need to grovel, because this will lead nowhere. You may be strong enough to seek a solution, but what if the other side is uninterested? If there is a local leadership that accepts the outline of the Israeli initiative and is not affiliated with the PLO—fine. They would be welcome partners.

[Eldar] So what is the solution?

[Levi] Let us proceed step by step.

[Eldar] Do you not believe in annexation?

[Levi] I believe annexation is not possible. We are committed to an agreement with international implications. One cannot say Camp David and annexation together; the two are not compatible. [Eldar] What parliament do you see the Palestinians voting for, eventually, if and when that day comes?

[Levi] In today's unbearable situation, there could be no perfect ideal, one way or the other.

[Eldar] The Palestinians are saying, however: If we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we could perhaps encourage moderate elements. Israel is not offering this light.

[Levi] This is the question: What is that light they want to see? Is it necessarily our light, the way we see it?

[Eldar] Perhaps a spot halfway is possible?

[Levi] If it is halfway, by all means, let us sit and talk. But is our halfway similar to their halfway? All this is possible only through negotiations, abandoning terrorism, the PLO, and the road that only brought disaster to them in past decades and caused unforgettable harm to civilians.

[Eldar] As foreign minister, you have, in fact, taken upon yourself the promotion of the central issue, namely, the peace process. Will you be ready to fight the prime minister and members of your party for a process you believe in?

[Levi] I do not accept the concept that I must always fight my friends, if the road is right. I can say for certain that the government, and certainly my movement, wants and believes in peace. In my movement today everyone views Camp David as the banner. If it becomes possible, we would see the implementation of the process we initiated.

[Eldar] Some had estimated, or perhaps hoped, that a coalition would be formed between you and Moshe Arens to advance the peace process. As foreign minister, he tried and got nowhere. You as foreign minister need the support of the Likud and the government. And here it becomes apparent that the two of you are almost incapable of sitting together.

[Levi] Rivalries on the road toward attaining the same political goals can exist among members of the same party, or even between ministers. This, however, must

not disturb us in our daily functions. Our positions oblige us to cooperate. I hope this is understood. I am not saying that there is no coordination, but the situation certainly is not ideal.

[Eldar] How about differences between a senior minister and an official (referring to the criticism leveled at the foreign minister by Prime Minister's Office Director General Yosi Ben-Aharon)?

[Levi] This is a grave phenomenon. It is unacceptable that an official publicly criticizes an elected leader, Knesset member, or minister. I have spoken about this with the prime minister, and he reprimanded the official and called him to order.

[Eldar] Would you tell a Palestinian: If you pass the test of a trial period, I would be willing to talk to you about your political aspirations?

[Levi] I do not know what the political aspirations are.

[Eldar] Self-determination?

[Levi] Let me tell you outright: If anyone expects me to head in the direction of a Palestinian state—I say no. I openly say this. I know that a Palestinian state means the beginning of the end of my state. It is only a matter of time.

[Eldar] And a confederation?

[Levi] I repeat: This is my belief.

Crown Prince Views UN Resolutions, Oil Prices

JN2410211390 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Speech by Crown Prince Hasan given on the occasion of United Nations Day at the United Nations Department offices in Amman, 24 October—recorded]

[Text] The sad message that I carry today is that the Arab-Israeli conflict is as polarized as it has ever been. In terms of human suffering, it is my incumbent duty to say that while we seek from the darkness and despair of the present crisis of the occupation and annexation of Kuwait, which we condemn in principle and on the basis of international law and the United Nations Charter, it is only fair to say that it is our hope that the principles which the United Nations seeks to enforce in ending annexation should not be limited to a particular conflict at the expense of other, longer-enduring situations of conflict, military occupation, and annexation.

And here, let me remind you, that whereas the Grand Commission 10 years ago spoke of a stabilization fund for oil prices, I find it horrifying to read today in one of the British newspapers the reference to an in-house United Nations report which highlights the enormous windfall profits totalling $154 billion—78 billion pounds sterling—a year, which OPEC and other oil-producing developing nations could make from the military standoff, given an oil price of $40, and to feel effectively that this windfall profit would, in the main, be benefitting industrialized nations, including members of the permanent five.

Unless and until the United Nations is effective in opening channels for plowing these profits back into development and debt relief, the developing world stands not to gain from this crisis, either in its inception or as we live in this interim between war or peace, by the end of this year, but to be further devastated, not only by the direct effects of war, but by the indirect effects of military action.

Prince Hasan Speaks on Regional Events

JN2410205790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan delivered a lecture this evening at the Al-Salt Cultural Center entitled "Jordan and Current Events in the Arab Homeland" in which he reviewed the scope and effect of the Gulf crisis on the region.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said the world still views the Middle East lightly, and does not show any interest in the heated issues there, despite the dangers of these issues and their effects on the whole world.

His highness added that we in Jordan insist on solving Arab causes within the Arab fold. To do so, we proceed from our firm belief in the unity of the Arab nation, which is the slogan upheld by the Great Arab Revolt and followed by the Hashemites. Therefore, Jordan did not close the doors to the Arab brothers, but remained committed to its pan-Arab stand.

In his review of the Gulf crisis, his highness said an Arab solution had been possible, but the speedy development of events, the international condemnation, and the Arab League's condemnation of Iraq made the chance for solving the problem through peaceful negotiations very slim.

His highness said we in Jordan depend on international legitimacy in our view of things, such as rejecting the annexation or occupation of land by force. He called for the simultaneous implementation of principles regarding all issues in the region.

His Highness Prince Hasan also clarified that there is clear concentration on the subject of besieging Iraq and pressuring Jordan to change its stands, whose objectives are to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. He said that Jordan's adherence to its stance on the crisis agrees with its full belief in this cause. This position stems from its commitment to the firm principles entrenched by this country—its leadership and people—and its adherence to the international norms and implementation of the economic boycott on Iraq, despite the great harm that will befall us.

He said that the burdens experienced by Jordan exceed its capacity and capabilities resulting from the Arabs' hatred, the war of interests, and the end of the cold war. His highness affirmed that the Middle East region could play an important role in solving many of the current issues. He called for moving away from emotion and dealing with the issues of the region logically and sensibly, away from various forms of extremism, and preventing all sides from using destructive weapons.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan affirmed that this great challenge could contain an opportunity for peace, if we can have a comprehensive view of the political course combined with the international political and legal principles and the actual economic needs of hundreds of millions of people. He said that the French position could be one of the rare and final chances to end the crisis peacefully.

His highness once again warned against calls demanding military solutions to satisfy their declared and undeclared interests and goals, one of which is to maintain a large market to export destructive weapons to the region.

In answering the questions and remarks of the audience, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said the strategic oil reserves in the region continue to be the focus of interest for the West and a major reason for occupying the entrances to the seas, in order to keep the oil and control its sources. He affirmed that Iraq's call for successfully solving the issues in the region through the United Nations could contribute to peace and stability in the region.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan expressed his hope that the bridges of trust between the countries in the region and the outside world will be rebuilt, and that international legitimacy will be imposed and its resolutions regarding stopping weapons of destruction and the discrepancies in economic opportunities be respected. He said that His Majesty King Husayn's contacts and talks with the Arab and international communities have been aimed from the outset at averting a huge catastrophe in the region and the world.

The lecture was attended by a number of ministers, senate members, deputies, al-Balqa' governor, and representatives from various popular and official bodies.

Minister, TAPLINE Differ on Resumed Pumping

JN2410165190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The minister of energy and mineral resources announced that he has asked the Saudi TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Pipeline] Company to resume pumping oil to the Jordanian Oil Refinery, to calculate interest on $40 million—an amount which, the Jordanian Government has explained, the sisterly Saudi Government has exempted it from paying—and to continue to calculate the interest on this amount until this matter becomes clear. However, TAPLINE informed the ministry that it does not agree with this request, and noted that it will be ready to resume pumping after the amount is repaid, provided that the crude oil shipments are available when the order is submitted. This shows the lack of a definite commitment to continuous pumping.

Minister on Problems in Servicing USSR Debt

JN2410183090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Finance Minister Basil Jardanah met today with the Soviet side of the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee. They reviewed their financial relations. Each side stated its concern over implementing the first protocol between the two countries, concluded last February, which stipulated exporting Jordanian goods and products amounting to $42 million in one year as part of repayment on the debt interest incurred with the Soviet Union.

The minister expressed Jordan's willingness to cooperate with the Soviet side in this field, and to look into contracts to export Jordanian products which have not yet been implemented in an attempt to facilitate them.

Mr. Jardanah explained the huge financial difficulties that Jordan is shouldering as a result of the Gulf crisis, and Jordan's full adherence to and implementation of the UN resolutions, which have reflected negatively on the Kingdom's foreign currency income.

The minister affirmed the responsibility of the United Nations and the Security Council, especially its permament members, for compensating the countries that have been harmed by the implementation of the UN resolutions, foremost of which is Jordan. This requires Security Council countries to be more understanding than others on the situation and circumstances that Jordan is going through. During the meeting, which was attended by the under secretary of the Trade and Industry Ministry and the Soviet ambassador to Amman, the minister praised the good relations between the two countries.

Diplomats See 'Sense of Urgency' for Aid

JN2410104090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A sense of urgency has been added to deliberations in various European capitals over financial assistance to Jordan to compensate for its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis, particularly that almost everyone agrees that the Kingdom is doing its best to adhere to the international sanctions against Iraq, its erstwhile main trading partner, according to Western diplomatic sources here. But no one is able to estimate with any degree of accuracy when this feeling will be translated into deeds through actual aid to the Kingdom.

Western diplomats also categorically deny that there are any ulterior political motives in delaying aid to Jordan as a means to apply political pressure on the Kingdom to change its position on the Gulf crisis.

"There is no doubt that (Jordan's) continued security and stability are in the interests of everyone," said a senior European Community (EC) diplomat. "Everyone also realises that an economic collapse of Jordan is imminent if urgent assistance is not extended," he added. "But the problem is," the EC official explained, "most European governments have not come up with definite commitments of pledge to be sent to the front-line states"—Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

A senior Jordanian official noted that Japan and Germany had pledged about $450 million in emergency assistance to Jordan; Tokyo has pledged $100 million in commodity loans under soft terms and another $150 million under stricter terms. Germany has promised $130 million in emergency loans under soft terms in addition to $70 million in unappropriated amounts from earlier agreements.

"We are confident that Japan and Germany will honour their pledges," the official said. But, he noted, until now there has been no definite indication of assistance from other sources.

This uncertainty and delay, which borders on what some analysts believe to be "procrastination" and a form of political pressure, could be fatal for the Kingdom's fragile economy, which had taken important steps towards recovery just before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

"We have no doubt whatsoever that Jordan is honest and sincere when it says that it is adhering to Resolution 661 (which imposed an international trade embargo against Iraq)," said the West European diplomat. "We are not in the least suspicious that Jordan is busting the sanctions, and this is the message we have been sending to our governments," he added. "Of course, one cannot overlook the fact that the Jordanian-Iraqi border is a very long one and there is always someone who looks for some easy money through smuggling. Even at that, we have to say that the Jordanians are very efficient in checking such attempts."

As far as the European assistance to Jordan is concerned, "I could categorically state that there are no political considerations behind the delay; it is only bureaucracy," he said.

"Over and above everything else, it is a shared belief among the diplomatic community that Jordan has adopted a very principled position," he said. "If there is a problem, then I suggest one should look across the Atlantic and perhaps to a certain extent to London for clues." American and British diplomats, however, reject any accusation that their countries are withholding aid from Jordan or pressuring other countries to do so. U.S. embassy diplomats in Amman refer to statements made by senior Bush administration officials, including Secretary of State James Baker, as proof that Washington believes Jordan is fully honouring sanctions against Iraq.

"In fact American officials, including Baker and (Treasury Secretary James) Brady, are lobbying for aid to Jordan," according to a senior American diplomat.

The British ambassador in Amman also rejected the suggestion that London was making any assistance to Jordan conditional on the Kingdom changing its policy on the Gulf crisis.

"Britain is very much interested in the continued stability and security of Jordan and realises that unless aid comes in soon enough the country will be in serious trouble," a British diplomat also said.

Another EC diplomat who has been in Jordan for the past two years, said his government "is trying its best to reach agreement over the EC pledge of aid to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey."

"Unfortunately, I am in no position to tell you when such agreement could be reached despite the awareness in my country that Jordan is facing perhaps the most severe crisis in its history," he added. The diplomat who, like other who spoke to the Jordan Times, insisted on anonymity, conceded that some of the EC member states "are not exactly very enthusiastic about extending any aid to anyone."

"They argue that they have already contributed heavily in the form of direct or indirect participation in the multinational force in the Gulf and that is the extent to which they are going to go," he said.

But a senior EC envoy insisted that there was no change whatsoever in the community's pledge of 1.5 billion European Currency Units ($2 billion) to help the three "frontline states." He, along with others, also expressed his conviction that Jordan needed the aid more than the other two countries.

"In fact, there is an added sense of urgency that Jordan should receive the aid now," the senior EC official said. "But bureaucracy has to take its course, and I hope that the assistance would not be too late."

Iraq Allows Citizens With Permits Into Kuwait

JN2510075790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Iraqi authorities have allowed all Jordanians and other nationals who have residence permits for Kuwait or visas from the Iraqi embassies to enter the Iraqi territories, regardless of the previously announced 23 October deadline for the return of those who left Kuwait after 23 August 1990.

Sources at the Jordanian border post of al-Ruwayshid have said that as a result of this decision, the border post received a large number of citizens returning to Kuwait over the past 24 hours.

State Bank Advises Against Foreign Money Deals

JN2410194290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 24 Oct (PETRA)—A responsible source at the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has stated that the CBJ is seeking to reorganize the exchange market and foreign currency dealings in the Kingdom, especially since the past two years have seen, for the first time in the history of the country, an unofficial market for dealing in foreign currencies.

The source affirmed that the CBJ has referred a draft law organizing exchange transactions in the Kingdom to the government, who will then refer it to Parliament for discussion in its coming session.

The source added that the CBJ considers dealings with foreign currency in the unofficial market illegal. It bases its argument on the Law on Foreign Currency Control, where Article 14 stipulates that no individual in the Kingdom can deal with foreign currencies or gold without a license from the CBJ. He pointed out that Article 17 of the same law punishes any violator of the regulations of Article 14 with a fine not exceeding 500 Jordanian dinars and no less than 50 Jordanian dinars.

It is worth noting here that the CBJ has during the past period sought to lessen the role of the unofficial foreign currency market through its monetary policy. However, as a result of the circumstances that have prevailed during the past two months, and the foreign factors accompanying them, which have no relation to the

economic and monetary situation in the Kingdom, the unofficial market for foreign currencies has resumed part of its activities.

The source called on citizens not to deal with this market in order to retain their savings, since it is hazardous because contains counterfeit banknotes.

Commission Approves Paper on Political Parties

JN2410084190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] The general commission entrusted by His Majesty King Husayn to prepare a national charter, or a social contract to govern future political life in the Kingdom last week approved a document which lays the foundation for the establishment of political parties in the country.

The document, entitled "the state of law and political pluralism" asserts that the Jordanian constitution is the supreme source of authority in the Kingdom, and from it derives the legitimacy of political parties, organisations and freedoms.

Following is an unofficial translation of the full text of the document as endorsed by the 60-member commission.:

First: The state of law [subtitle]

1—The state of law is a democratic state which is committed to the supremacy of the law and which draws its legitimacy, authority and activities from the free will of the people. All the state's authorities shall be committed to ensure legal, judicial and administrative guarantees for the protection of human rights, dignity and political freedoms as based on Islam and which have been endorsed by the universal declaration on human rights as well as all international charters and agreements sponsored by the United Nations Organisation in this respect.

2—The state of Jordan is the state of law in the modern sense of the meaning of a democratic state and a state for all the Jordanian citizens regardless of their beliefs and views. The Jordanian state draws its power from the practical application of the declaration of equality, justice and equal opportunities, and also from the right to a chance for the Jordanian people to participate in taking decisions pertaining to the people's way of living and general affairs in a manner that would achieve stability and build confidence in the future and foster a feeling of concern for the state's organisations and a sense of national belonging.

Second: Basic principles for the state of law [subtitle)

1—Commitment to the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution in the letter and the spirit when handling legislative, executive and judicial authorities whithin the framework of right and justice.

2—Commitment to the principle that law rules supreme, guaranteed by full control on the part of the independent judicial authority.

3—Commitment, when practising democracy, to the principles of social justice and its requirements because it constitutes the essence of the democratic system.

4—Commitment, in free expression of views, to the principle of democratic dialogue totally independent from and free of all forms of pressure, and ideological intimidation at all public and official levels.

5—Neutrality on the part of governmental establishments in their dealings with the public and public institutions and refraining from any exploitation of institutions by any group, political party or bloc for political reasons, but rather in a manner that would not compromise the right of members of the public to political organisation. Military and civilian institutions should strictly abide by this principle so as to ensure success for the democratic system in the country.

a) In order to corroborate the above mentioned principles, certain measures should be taken to finalise the construction of constitutional institutions that would bolster the democratic edifice and achieve the following:

1—Enactment of those legislations that would pave the way for the creation of a permanent institution under a special law, to be called "grievances office" which would give further boosting to control state affairs and the state's dealings with its citizens. This should by no means compromise the effectiveness and efficiency of any administration and should underscore the important role of justice in the construction of the democratic society without compromising the prerogatives of the judiciary.

2—Adoption of necessary measures to set up a special body that would be entrusted with modernising the laws through studies of existing legislations with a view to achieving amendments. Recommendation in this respect should be submitted to the council of ministers and Parliament for approval.

3—A revision of the country's defence law and martial rule. A special legislation should be enacted to deal with emergency situations under a special defence law when martial rule is declared, but which must first be endorsed by Parliament to determine its duration, and should be subject to judicial control.

4—Revision of the constitutional articles dealing with the council of ministers' legislative authority as included in Articles 114 and 120 of the Constitution. These are related to the purchase of requirements for government businesses, and the Civil Service Commission. These authorities should be entrusted to Parliament.

5—Recommendation was given to revise the provisions of the Constitution in general and to take guaranteed measures to introduce amendments wherever possible and helpful to the democratisation process.

Third: Political pluralism [subtitle]

1—The concept of political pluralism is based on the principle of accepting different views in political, economic and social fields, and recognising the right of individuals, groups and organisations to set up their own parties and groups as long as they are committed to the provisions of the Constitution and the National Charter based on the Constitution.

2—The most solid guarantee for the democratic system in the country's political pluralism hinges on commitment to the following principles:

a) Respect for the principles of the democratic process by all the parties and political groups because such process is the best guarantee for justice and stability.

b) Consolidating the values of tolerance and respect of other people's beliefs and avoiding personal feuds and personal hostile attacks on the other individuals or groups.

c) Guaranatee for basic freedoms for all citizens in a manner that would provide protection for all elements in society and the rights of all individuals to free expression.

d) Guarantee of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, men or women, without any discrimination.

e) Political parties, professional associations and voluntary groups together form an integrated democratic society whose mission is to ensure civic contribution to national efforts that would serve the nation for now and in the future. Therefore, these groups and organisations should not be made to serve as substitutes for government organisations.

f) There should be full protection for the civic and democractic charter of the state; therefore any attmept to tamper with this situation will be considered null from the start because it simply means an encroachment on the Constitution and a violation of the right of people to adopt the concept of pluralism.

g) All laws in general and those concerning political parties, press and publication and elections in particular should provide for respect for all basic rights and public freedoms.

Fourth: Principles and rules that control political groups and parties. [subtitle]

1—Jordanians have the right to create political parties or to join them provided that these parties' aims are legitimate and their methods are sound and within the law and they respect the principles and objectives of the National Charter. Laws on political groups or parties should by no menas imply or include any provisions that would make the Constitution a tool to ban or destroy political parties.

2—Political action and political parties should be founded on pluralism, in ideology and organisation.

3—All political parties should openly declare their statutes and programmes, defining their objectives in political, social or cultural and economic fields.

4—Political parties should commit themselves to their declared programmes in word and deed and take into consideration the following:

a) Adoption of democratic methods with regard to statutes, the election of leadership and in conducting their political activities which should be held in a democratic atmosphere internally, and in dealings with the other political groups in the country.

b) Jordanian political parties should by no means be affiliated to non-Jordanian groups, and therefore they should never direct their own business and activities in a manner that would respond to directives or orders from abroad.

All political parties should also take into consideration the fact that the liberation of Palestine and Arab unity remain the most prominent objectives for all Arab countries.

c) Any political party entrusted with the executive authority or taking part in it should aim to achieve equality for all citizens regardless of their affiliations.

d) All political parties should depend for their financial resources on local revenues which should be made public and be subject to legal control.

e) Political parties should avoid involving officers from the armed forces, and the Public Security into their cadres in any way or form especially with the purpose of creating their own militias.

f) Political parties should have their own headquarters; and state institutions should by no means be made to serve their objectives nor should there be any attempt to involve religious or public administration organisations in any activities organised by political parties.

g) Only the judiciary holds authority to settle any violation related to "the political parties' law."

PLO Official Holds Press Conference 23 Oct

JN2410174590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Oct 90 p 9

[Excerpts] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has said that war starts from Palestine, and that peace also originates in Palestine. He was referring to the strong link of all the crises in the region and the need for seeking an all-encompassing solution.

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday afternoon at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman, 'Abd-Rabbuh

added that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is explosive and rife with the possibility of broader, more comprehensive, and bloodier explosions. [passage omitted]

He also said that the Palestinian people feel that the Security Council is suffering from U.S. and British pressures. He noted that the Security Council has not adopted the minimum level of measures and resolutions needed to put an end to the crimes and massacres of Israeli occupation. Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that this failure on the part of the Security Council is leading today to a possibly broader explosion in the lands of the occupied Palestinian state.

He added that the only way to put an end to this bloody series is by providing international protection for our people in our occupied homeland and Holy Jerusalem, and dispatching UN forces to the occupied Palestinian territories. Nothing short of this solution will prevent the possibility of a wide explosion, he said. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh attributed the frequent postponement of the Security Council meetings and the maelstrom into which the Security Council was drawn concerning the fact-finding mission to a game of the British Government, which has chaired the Security Council in lieu of Washington. He said that the international community and the Security Council should undertake an all-encompassing treatment of the situation in the region and find solutions to all conflicts, particularly the Palestine question, since it is the essence and basis of all explosions in the region.

He also asserted that the war of daggers against the settlers and usurpers of Jerusalem is just the beginning of a battle waged by the Palestinian people by all means in order to protect the capital of their homeland and their sanctities and existence.

Answering a question by AL-RA'Y about the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon and the Gulf countries, he said that the PLO supports the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and that it supports extending the legitimate authority all over its national soil, primarily in the land to the south, which is occupied by the Israeli enemy. [passage omitted]

He also asserted the need to protect our people from the Israeli danger, liberate south Lebanon from Israeli occupation, and extend support to the legitimate Lebanese Government. He said we support the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon over all its territories, and this is an unswerving tenet of Palestinian policy.

Concerning the suffering of Palestinians in the Gulf countries, he said: We have held various contacts and made arrangements to resolve many of the problems from which our people in the Gulf are suffering. He went on to say: We have contacted a number of Gulf countries and told them that harming Palestinian interests through deportation, expulsion, or economic pressures would have serious effects in the long run, and that these actions should immediately stop. We also noted that Palestinians should not bear the blame for the failure of the policies adopted by some countries and regimes in the Gulf. 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that any infringement on the interests of our people in the Gulf is in effect an infringement on and a conspiracy against the interests of the intifadah.

Answering a question on the recent resolutions issued by the Jerusalem Committee and the Arab League Council, he said: These are good resolutions in harmony with the Palestinian position and are based on the Palestinian paper submitted to the two meetings. He added, however, that there is a big difference between adopting resolutions and applying them. He said: We are asking Arab and Islamic countries to take the first step; that is, to work within the framework of the Security Council and to call for international protection for Palestinians and for the imposition of sanctions on Israel.

'Abd-Rabbuh declared that the PLO has undertaken extensive efforts and endeavors to resolve the Gulf crisis. He asserted, however, that "we are not mediators. We stand with Iraq against any danger that threatens Iraq and the Arab nation. We also support a solution within the Arab framework."

Answering a question on the relationship between Iranian and Palestinian leaders, he said: It is a good and developed relationship. Palestinian delegations pay frequent visits to Tehran, and there are continuing contacts between us. He also asserted that the Iranian position rejects the U.S. and foreign presence in the Gulf, indicating that this position provides an important factor of deterrence to any military adventure.

Regarding the financial siege imposed on the PLO and the intifadah, he asserted that the U.S. decision to deplete PLO resources has been made. He noted, however, that these are illusions because Palestinian and Arab peoples possess great resources to support the intifadah; therefore, their siege will not achieve its objectives. He wondered why the funds spent to finance the U.S. forces in the Arabian desert were not allotted to the Palestinian intifadah and other problems in the Arab region?

Answering another question, he said that the military and political options are equally valid. He said our efforts, along with those of Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn, are tirelessly seeking conditions and possibilities for a political solution within the Arab framework and in harmony with international legitimacy.

Answering a question by AL-RA'Y, he said that all Palestinian factions have the right to enter through the doors of the PLO, even the Damascus-based factions. He wondered why these factions did not attend the recent Central Council meetings, thus isolating themselves from responsibility for the course of Palestinian struggle.

He added that there is no going back from the PLO policy and the Palestinian peace program. There will also

be no retreat from the decisions adopted by the National Council in Algiers. Our people inside the homeland and in the diaspora have rallied around this line of action. We will not render a service to Shamir and Washington because we know full well that this line of ours is a line of struggle, and it supports the struggle of our people and their victorious intifadah.

Concerning efforts being made by Moscow, Paris, and Beijing to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully, he said: We support the Iraqi-French dialogue; we also support dialogue with all parties, especially since the U.S. position rejects dialogue and wants to check any advancement toward a balanced solution.

He asserted that a number of international forces want to be responsive. We learned this from the tour of the Soviet envoy in the region, he said. He also asserted that Palestinian contacts with France, Moscow, and the PRC are under way, and that all of these are leading in positive directions, defusing war in the Gulf, and providing a prelude to a political solution.

Saudi 'Reconciliatory Gesture' to Iraq Hailed

JN2410133790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Oct 90 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Why Did Riyadh's Position Annoy Washington?"]

[Text] Following Saudi Arabia's reconciliatory gesture toward Iraq, the United States hastened to voice its annoyance with the positive implications of the new Saudi position, especially since that position expresses a major Saudi trend.

The statements made by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second man in Saudi Arabia, which were first denied, explained, and then confirmed, constitute an initial sign of a new position that will emerge from the traditional Saudi wisdom.

If this position can be developed in the future, it may provide a real key to coordinated diplomatic Arab and international efforts to avert the war option, the flames of the battle, and the complete destruction of both Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

We hope, therefore, that Prince Sultan's statements are a strong sign of a growing Saudi awareness of the grave dangers threatening Saudi Arabia and the whole region as a result of the presence of the foreign armies, which are creating security, social, political, and war dangers and threatening everyone in the region.

We sincerely believe, therefore, that if such a position is crystallized by Riyadh in the future, a door will open for resolving the disputed issues within the framework of the one Arab home and Arab relations away from foreign interference, which has always complicated the situation and increased differences among Arabs.

As we do not hesitate to publicly welcome the Saudi willingness to reconcile with Iraq, we hope that Saudi Arabia will crystallize a Saudi policy capable of pulling the carpet from under the feet of the Anglo-Saxon alliance and of turning over a new leaf in inter-Arab relations, which are about to founder on the rock of the Gulf crisis.

Al-Asad Said To Get President's Hostage Pledge

NC2510124690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Today's press reports in Doha say that during their last month's summit Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad obtained a personal pledge from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that the file on foreign hostages held in Lebanon would be closed before the end of this year.

Quoting a prominent Muslim fundamentalist source in Lebanon, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says that the British Government agreed to restore diplomatic relations with Tehran last month after Damascus conveyed to it Rafsanjani's pledge regarding the release of the British hostages, perhaps ahead of the release of the U.S. hostages.

Cabinet Meets; Stresses Consolidation, Peace

NC2410140490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1255 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Cabinet after its 24 October session, read by Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet met under His Excellency Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the republic, and in the presence of his excellency the prime minister and the ministers.

His excellency the president began by praising the new stage that began on 13 October, stressing the need to overcome the transient, negative aspects, and to resume normal life. He briefed the Cabinet on the results of the recent Lebanese-Syrian summit and the contacts that followed it in Damascus and Beirut, which all aim to consolidate state authority and complete the process of reconciliation and peace.

Regarding the assassination of the late engineer Dany Sham'un and members of his family, which was strongly denounced by the president of the republic and all the ministers, the president told the Cabinet that Sham'un had sent him a message the day before the crime, indicating his sincere desire to cooperate for the sake of restoring peace. In turn, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss confirmed what the president said and expressed sorrow and denounced the tragic incident. He told the Cabinet that Sham'un had also sent him a message reflecting a positive change in his position and the determination to work within the framework of legitimacy.

The Cabinet assessed the information available and the current developments and discussed all aspects of the situation. The Cabinet announces the following:

The Cabinet decided to continue to consolidate state authority over Greater Beirut, to let the Army take over roads and positions, to suppress violations, to tighten the implementation of laws, to ban the transport of weapons and all armed instances, to close all armed offices and positions and evacuate those that have been occupied, and to take immediate measures against violators and perpetrators and refer them to competent military and judicial authorities.

The Cabinet also decided to implement real control of ports and facilities, recover official buildings, take control of state revenues, and take all necessary measures to stop illegal taxes and illegitimate fees.

The Cabinet underlined its determination to consolidate security and establish stability so that citizens, particularly in regions that have returned to the state's legitimate authority, can be reassured about their present and future and their right to a free, dignified, and secure life, and their right to practice private and public freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The Cabinet asked the committee made up of the ministers of defense and agriculture to continue implementing these decisions without delay.

The Cabinet decided to act quickly to provide public services, particularly water, electricity, and transportation, and after repairing the damage caused by violence, to organize the other basic services and provide for the necessities of life. It also decided to speed up the restoration of the justice palace and make urgent repairs to official centers.

The Cabinet strongly condemned the bestial crime that claimed the lives of the late engineer Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberals Party, and members of his family. It considers the crime to be aimed against state security and the peace process. On the recommendations of the president of the republic and the prime minister and the proposal of the justice minister, the Cabinet decided to refer the case to the Judicial Council. The Cabinet declares its profound sympathy for the families of all the victims who died in acts of violence in other areas, stressing the need for the conscious forces of goodwill to rally to put an end to the Lebanese people's pain and to return to normal life. This cannot be done except on the basis of the unity of the legitimate authority, supremacy of law, and the undertaking of their tasks by institutions without any obstacles.

The Cabinet approved the agenda items which concern daily functions of public administration.

Armed Groups, Individuals Barred From Al-Matn

NC2410144590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the army command adopted a series of measures that prevent the presence of any armed individuals and groups. The command has instructed the 2d Brigade to take care of any field violations in the northern al-Matn area and the 6th Brigade in the southern al-Matn area.

We have learned that an ultimatum was given to the Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party and the pro-Hubayqah gunmen to evacuate the Phalangist Party offices in the two al-Matn areas and to hand them over to party leader Minister George Sa'adah by no later than the end of the month.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 24 October, in a similar report, adds: "The Lebanese Army Corps of Engineers, with the backing of the Syrian Arab forces, continues to remove mines, bunkers, and barricades from the roads and crossings connecting the two parts of Beirut, as well as the other Lebanese areas. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army expanded its deployment in the two al-Matn areas and Beirut's southern suburb, where it took over a number of positions and offices that belonged to armed groups in the area. The public was immensely satisfied with these measures, considering how the people suffered under the rule of the militias and during the rebellion."]

Decree Refers 'Awn, Aides to Judiciary Council

NC2410205190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] According to Official Decree No. 656, dated 19 October 1990 and published today, General Michel 'Awn and officers Edgar Ma'luf and 'Isam Abu-Jamrah have been referred to the Judiciary Council, REUTER reports.

The decree says: Officers Michel 'Awn, Edgar Ma'luf, 'Isam Abu-Jamrah, and other associates and accomplices have been referred to the Judiciary Council on charges of undermining the state's internal security by acts of usurpation of political power and military command as well as concomitant acts of conspiracy and violations of the constitution [words indistinct], sedition, terror, and attempts to undermine national unity, the state's finances, and public safety.

Minister Sees New Government Within Three Weeks

NC2410194590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul expects a new government to be formed in Lebanon during the next three weeks. The new government will comprise partisan leaders, who will voice their complaints to the government in a democratic atmosphere free from the use of arms, he pointed out.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in the United Arab Emirates, Dallul voiced his optimism about the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that the legitimate Lebanese Government is anxious to maintain good relations with France. However, he emphasized the need to put Michel 'Awn on trial and to ask France to extradite him, if he is convicted in absentia.

Amal, Ja'ja', PSP Back Greater Beirut Plan

NC2510073290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] A ranking Amal Movement official has stated that the movement welcomes the Cabinet's decision on the Greater Beirut Plan. He added that the movement's step is not new because Minister Nabih Birri had in fact participated in shaping the Cabinet's decision.

The Amal official went on to say that the movement was the first to call for establishing Greater Beirut, disbanding the militias, and for consolidating the state's authority over greater Lebanon.

In a televised interview yesterday, Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' voiced his agreement in principle on setting up Greater Beirut. He expressed the hope that Greater Beirut will expand its control to cover Nahr al-Awwali and the two al-Matn regions.

In a similar development, AFP cited a spokesman for the Progressive Socialist Party as saying that the party has approved the cabinet's decision, pointing out that the party had indeed withdrawn its military forces from Beirut at the request of the same government a few months ago.

Hizballah Source Refutes Greater Beirut Report

NC2510080890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] AFP has cited a Hizballah source as saying: We are awaiting the outcome of the contacts by the ministerial committee entrusted by the government with implementing the Greater Beirut Plan. He added: We are prepared to discuss everything. He reiterated the party's positive stand, pointing out that Hizballah fighters have evacuated some positions in the Beirut's southern suburb following the 13 October operation against Michel 'Awn.

The source said: Our positive stand conforms with our political orientation. There is no need for the presence of armed gunmen, except on the battle front with the Israeli enemy, the source said.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0630 GMT on 25 October, in a similar report, adds: "A responsible source in Hizballah stated yesterday that the AFP report which says that the party has declared a positive stand on the issue of Greater Beirut was not accurate. The source pointed out that the party's stand will be announced in due time in light of the ongoing contacts."]

Ja'ja' on Relations With Syria, Government

NC2410212190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has emphasized that the issue of greater Beirut is

related to the issue of the government. He said that formation of a balanced national government that represents everyone is needed now, so that it could sponsor the establishment of greater Beirut, free from the militias.

Dr. Ja'ja' added: The topics must be presented seriously. The LF, he added, favors a greater Beirut extending from Nahr al-Kalb to Nahr al-Awwali under the rule of the legitimate government, including the Lebanese Army, internal security forces, and the other state institutions.

He said the LF wants normal and serious relations with Syria through the al-Ta'if accord. He noted that the Lebanese state must be serious in depending upon itself to reestablish its institutions and extend its authority throughout its territories. He pointed out that progress in relations with Syria will come through the Lebanese legitimacy.

According to Dr. Ja'ja', when it comes to the issue of sovereignty and independence, no country could be built with the efforts, sweat, and blood of another country.

Regarding the national unity government, he said it will have two main tasks: To restore the minimum socioeconomic life and to follow up the process of reconciliation. He pointed out that the Phalangist Party, the Liberal Party, and the LF will be represented in the government separately, and that deputies will be appointed only if parliamentary elections are impossible to hold.

Dr. Ja'ja' also called for allowing freedom of political action throughout the country within the framework of legitimacy and for the return of all evacuees to their homes.

Al-Huss Hopes for UN Resolution Implementation

NC2410172890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] In a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss expressed Lebanon's hope that Resolution 425 will be implemented. The resolution provides for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. In his message, al-Huss lauded the very important role performed by the international forces.

'Heavy' Bombardment by Israeli, South Lebanese Army

NC2410122090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Oct GMT 90

[Text] The Amal Movement and Hizballah have been skirmishing with various types of weapons in Iqlim al-Tuffah since this morning.

Meanwhile, security reports from the western al-Biqa' say that 'Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, and the neighboring areas have been under heavy artillery bombardment from the Israeli and South Lebanese Army posts inside the security belt since this morning.

Amal-Hizballah Meeting Called To End Fighting

NC2510145990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Iqlim al-Tuffah, skirmishes involving Amal and Hizballah positions have been reported. Several villages in the region came under shelling. Amal sources said the villages of 'Arab Salim, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, Humin al-Fawqa, Sarba, Jurnaya, and Kafr (bid) came under shelling and sniper fire from Hizballah positions, wounding three persons.

In the meantime, efforts are under way to end the ongoing fighting in the region. A meeting, attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, was held yesterday in 'Anjar between delegations from Amal and Hizballah to reach a settlement in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Palestinian 'Sources' View Al-Rashidiyah Raid

NC2410204890 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, Oct 24 (AFP)—Israeli helicopters late Wednesday raided the Palestinian refugee camp of al-Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon, Palestinian sources said.

Several helicopters bombed the camp, 85 kilometres (50 miles) south of Beirut, at around 8 p.m., setting off fires, the sources said.

There was no immediate indication of casualties.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli military spokesman said the aircraft had hit their targets and returned safely to base. The positions had been used "to launch terrorist operations against Israel," he said.

The spokesman said Katushka rockets had been fired from the region in the last two weeks.

The mainstream Fatah group of Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat has bases near the positions hit in Rashidiyeh, which has around 17,000 inhabitants.

It was the first Israeli air raid on Palestinian positions since July 6, when a post of the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command was hit in northern Lebanon.

Eleven people were wounded in that attack, while nine people were hurt in an Israeli raid on al-Rashidiyah on April 5.

The Israeli spokesman also reported that two militants of the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group Hizballah were killed and two wounded late Tuesday in a clash with a unit of Israeli paratroopers in south Lebanon.

'Source' Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

JN2410170190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1617 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

Every day, the U.S. Government emerges with new types of support for Israel. Over the past few days alone, it has made a decision to offer Patriot anti-missile missiles; a decision to offer new ammunition; a decision to provide Israel with new F-15 aircraft and helicopters; a decision to grant an additional $700 million to pay for weapons and ammunition, in addition to $400 million to build housing for Jewish immigrants. There has also been a decision to increase the U.S. stockpile of weapons and ammunition in Israel. This stockpile will be at the disposal of Israel whenever it needs it. In addition to all this, $3 billion are allocated for Israel annually, more than half of which is alloted for military equipment. This unlimited support for Israel can neither achieve peace nor aim at achieving peace, but reinforces aggression and occupation and encourages invasion and expansion. Linking all these emergent decisions to the Iraqi position on Kuwait lacks a convincing argument or logic and is aimed at deception with the aim of distracting the attention of the world, and the Arab nation in particular, from the serious intentions harbored against us by Israel, along with the United States and some Western states.

This matter requires that all Arabs carefully examine what is going on and investigate the situation thoroughly so as to be able to continuously see all directions of danger and to define the appropriate behavior.

Primakov Meets Al-Asad, Brings Message

JN2510113790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1245 today Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and President Mikhail Gorbachev's adviser and personal envoy. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov.

Mr. Primakov arrived in Damascus at 1100 today and was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the director of protocol, the director of the Eastern European Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and senior embassy staff. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Mr. Primakov expressed pleasure in visiting Syria and said he was looking forward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad to give him a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He said Syrian-Soviet relations are firm. We are continuing our consultations and coordination with the Syrian leadership in light of the complicated developments in the region, he added.

U.S. Ambassador on Lebanon, Gulf Crisis, Israel

JN2510081190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 24 Oct (SANA)—Mr. Edward Djerejian, U.S. ambassador to Syria, has said that his country supports the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord and calls on all the Lebanese people to support President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his legitimate government.

In a news conference here today, Mr. Djerejian said that Syrian efforts are aimed at helping Lebanon and its legitimate government expand its authority over all Lebanese territories.

He added that his country's position rejects the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, saying that this attack is a serious precedent that the international community opposes. He also noted that the international community has called for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

Concerning the massacre committed by the Israeli Army in occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Djerejian said that the situation is very serious, and could produce more violence. Therefore, he added, we supported the Security Council resolution condemning this action.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Departs After Visit

JN2510084990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Senegalese Foreign Minister Oumar Sy Seydina left Damascus today following a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the directors of the African and Protocol Departments in the Foreign Ministry.

Oumar Sy Seydina described his visit to Damascus as very successful. He thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for receiving him. He said: This is the first time I have met his excellency and I have always admired his personality and his way of tackling issues. Talks were very positive and fruitful, he added.

On bilateral relations, Oumar Sy Seydina said that Syria is ready to give scholarships to Senegalese students to study in Syria. He concluded his statement by thanking Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the hospitality he granted him, and he invited the foreign minister to visit Senegal.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Repulse Government Forces in Zabol

BK2310094690 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 22—Afghan news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] says that the communist forces which wanted to supply fresh troops, arms and ammunition by helicopters to the besieged Qalat Town, capital of Zabol Province on Oct. 18 and 19 were repulsed by the Afghan Mujahidin's anti-aircraft guns.

According to the report, the regime's helicopter gunships targetted Qalat city, killing five locals on Oct. 17.

The Mujahidin are preparing for a joint operation in Qalat city.

According to another report, the Mujahidin attacked the security posts in Darai Kayan [placename as published] area of Pol-e Khomri district of Baghlan province on Oct. 16 capturing three militiamen.

A machinegun, R-109 wireless set and huge quantity of ammunition fell to Mujahidin. Three Mujahids also sustained injuries.

The Mujahidin also targetted Shindand Airbase with heavy machineguns and long-ranged weapons, burning three communist regime's jet fighters which were about to taking off, on Oct. 17.

Twentyfour servicemen of the airbase were killed, 55 injured and several military barracks were also destroyed, during the attack.

Government Forces Oust 'Extremists,' Capture Arms

LD2410152490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Units of the armed forces based in Herat Province have recently launched successful mopping-up operations in the area of Kohsan district in Herat. The military section of the BIA reports: During the operation, tens of extremists have been ousted from combat lines, and tens of their arms and ammunition have been destroyed. Units have captured new positions and have set up new security posts around the district. [passage omitted]

Kabul Hit by Rebel Missiles; Casualties Reported

LD2510073990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] As a result of the firing of 26 surface-to-surface missiles, two of our compatriots were martyred today and nine others were injured. The BIA military section reports that the missiles were of SAKAR type, fired from a southerly direction, and which landed in Ward 10 of Kabul city. As a result, material loss was also caused.

Government Organs Purchase Missiles From Rebels

LD2510074290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security in Khowst have purchased three Blowpipe surface-to-air missiles from an armed group associated with Gulbuddin. The Military section of BIA reports that the price of the missiles have been paid to the other side.

Bangladesh

Ershad Says Opposition Demonstrations Ineffective

BK2410163390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] President Ershad has urged the opposition political parties to follow the constitutional path instead of terrorism. At a spontaneous gathering of people at Ullapara in Sirajganj today, he said hartals [general strikes] and demonstrations could not change the government. The president said when constitutional process was being followed around the world to promote democracy, some opposition parties in this country were engaged in destructive activities, ignoring all democratic norms. Maintaining that peace, stability, and discipline are essential for national progress. He said the violence and destructive activities will only bring untold sufferings to the people. He urged the opposition to go to the people to seek their mandate through elections.

President Ershad went to Ullapara to see the old mother of Naziruddin Jehad who was killed during violence in Dhaka on the 10th of this month. [passage omitted]

Lawyers Fight Government's Closure of University

BK2510033190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT 25 Oct 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 24 (AFP)—The administration of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad faces a crucial challenge from a group of top Bangladeshi lawyers who have petitioned the high court over a government order to close down Dhaka University. In their petition filed Wednesday the 12 lawyers accused the government of violating the 1973 Dhaka University Ordinance, which grants autonomy to the college and, according to the lawyers, does not empower the authorities to close the school to maintain law and order.

"We cannot predict the outcome of the (petition), but we expect a good result," said an associate of Bar Association President Kamal Hossain. The university, a traditional hot-bed of student politics, was closed indefinitely in the midst of a wave of student unrest against Mr. Ershad on October 13 under a new law called the Educational Institutions (Discipline-Peace) Ordinance, 1990.

The university senate, the school's highest policy-making body, said after the closure that the shutdown order was "illegal and without lawful authority." The new ordinance was used to close four more universities and several other schools across the country.

The lawyers filed their writ after the authorities failed to respond to a justice of demand notice served on the education, law and justice and parliamentary affairs ministries. The notice was also served on three government officials, including Abdullah Haroon Pasha, who signed the closure order.

Court sources said Justices M. Abdul Jalil and K. Shahabuddin Ahmed had set October 31 as the hearing date. Mohammad Abdus Quddus Chowdhury, a high-ranking Law and Justice Ministry official, said the government would fight the petition in court if it had to.

Observers here said it would be humiliating for the government to lose yet another court battle with the lawyers. The same lawyers last year defeated part of a constitutional amendment decentralising the judiciary, and last month successfully opposed a government order closing a news magazine for publishing anti-government articles.

Dhaka University teachers have rejected the new ordinance, calling it a "conspiracy to cripple the education sector," and mainstream opposition parties have demanded its immediate repeal. Students across the country called for the ordinance's withdrawal and for the immediate reopening of universities and schools.

Reliable sources said the government was contemplating reopening most of the schools soon, but not the universities. "It is one of the issues that has been opposed by all quarters and the authorities should respect the demand," said one critic of the government.

Students have traditionally played a leading role in major Bangladeshi political campaigns, including the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. The latest opposition agitation started on October 10 and has claimed 10 lives and injured scores of people.

Opposition parties have been campaigning for the past eight years for the resignation of Mr. Ershad and free elections under a neutral interim government. They say fair polls would not be possible under Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup.

The new ordinance authorizes the government to shut the schools for one month or more and impose sanctions of six months' imprisonment and fines of 1,000 taka (28 dollars) on violators. It also allows authorities to ban marches and protests on the grounds that they might violate peace and discipline.

Premier Ahmed in London en Route to Barbados

BK2410145290 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister of Bangladesh Qazi Zafar Ahmed arrived in London Tuesday en route to Barbados to attend the 11th Commonwealth education ministers' conference there. Qazi Zafar Ahmed, who is in charge of the Ministry of Education, will be one of the keynote speakers of the conference which begins on Monday next. He will speak on improving the quality of basic education in the Commonwealth countries.

India

Parties React to Test of Majority in Parliament

BK2410150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Talking to newsmen, the Janata Dal chief, Mr. Bommai, expressed confidence that the National Front Government will prove its majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha with members exercising their conscience vote. He said if it is inevitable, the party is prepared to face elections. Replying to a question, Mr. Bommai denied that there was any move to seek the resignation of Mr. V.P. Singh. The Janata Dal president said the party leaders from Gujarat and Rajasthan have been summoned in the capital for a meeting tonight to take a decision on the continuing the coalition with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in the two states.

The senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandrashekhar, has ruled out the possibility of any split in the party. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said there is a need for consolidation of democratic and secular forces to meet the challenges before the country. To a query, Mr. Chandrashekhar said he has never been opposed to Mr. V.P. Singh as prime minister.

The Congress-I and the BJP have alleged that the government is gaining time to face parliament with a view to indulging in horse- trading. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, cautioned the National Front against any such attempt.

The BJP general secretary, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, told newsmen that his party will oppose the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. Another party general secretary, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said the speaker should ensure that no member is prevented from being present in the house.

The Left parties have already made their stand clear that they will support the government in facing the confidence vote. The Kerala chief minister said in Trivandrum today that the vote will be an acid test to ascertain which parties are permitted to upholding secularism, the constitution, and democracy.

Singh Hopes To Lose in Parliament, Win Election

BK2510095090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 25 Oct 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25 (AFP)—India's prime minister has earned a fortnight's respite in a political battle being projected as a showdown between secular and fundamentalist forces. The fate of Vishwanath Pratap Singh's tenuous coalition government will be decided November 7 in parliament in a test of his legislative support.

Observers said Thursday it was a battle the 59-year-old premier would rather not win ahead of inevitable snap general elections. "V.P. Singh will prefer to lose after hammering the point that he had sacrified his government to put down the greatest challenge to India's secularism," a senior official in the ruling Janata Dal (People's Party) said.

The official, a close associate of the prime minister, said Mr. V.P. Singh had concluded that the "position of his government has become untenable" after 11 months in power during which he has battled paralysing crisis after crisis. He would rather go to the electorate and ask for a fresh mandate on a secular, anti-fundamentalist platform than continue as a lame duck, the official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. V.P. Singh's latest crisis erupted Tuesday when the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) cut off the legislative support sustaining his minority coalition government. The BJP acted after the government arrested its popular president, Lal Krishan Advani, to thwart its plans to build a Hindu temple on the site of a 16th century mosque.

The crisis has put a sworn BJP enemy, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, in a spot. If the Congress—which with 195 MPS is the largest single block in the parliament with an effective strength of 524, votes with the BJP on November 7 to pull down the government—it would be seen to be voting on the side of religious fundamentalism.

The parliamentary motion the government plans to introduce will ask MPs to reaffirm confidence in Mr. V.P. Singh for having saved the nation from a communal conflagration. "If the Congress (I) votes against the motion, its position in the eyes of the minorities (Moslems) will be compromised," a ruling party politician said. "That is something the Congress (I) cannot afford."

He said one option was that the Congress (I) abstain—a move that may help the government scrape through with the help of fringe groups and Moslem MPs in a ballot that will count only those present and voting. Moslems, who number 100 million, compose the largest religious minority in the overwhelmingly Hindu country. They form a sizeable voting group that no centrist party can afford to alienate.

Congress (I) spokesman M.J. Akbar declined substantive comment on what position the party would take in parliament, but ridiculed the V.P. Singh government for its secularist posture. "Here is a government which has nurtured and nestled the BJP for two years which suddenly claims to be a champion of secularism," he said.

On the vote in parliament, which will draw the battle lines for possible elections, Mr. Akbar said: "It will prove the government's minority status." As the Congress (I) tries to find a way out of the predicament, ruling party sources said Mr. V.P. Singh would try to project himself as the man who has the guts to tackle the "greatest threat to Indian secularism."

The issue has also given him breathing space in a Janata Dal factional war. Increasingly restive opponents have beaten a tactical retreat and rallied behind the prime minister for the coming electoral battle. His bitter opponent and former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal ruled out a leadership tussle, saying generals are not changed in the heat of the battle.

"The dissidents have folded up their tents," said the V.P. Singh associate. "They know that V.P. Singh is their only vote-catcher and want to cling to his coattails." The same consideration appears to have made Congress (I) MPs close ranks behind their leader Rajiv Gandhi, on the comeback trail after putting the November 1989 electoral loss behind him. He is the man Mr. V.P. Singh must beat. Observers from both sides are, for the moment, ruling out breakaway forces realigning to form another political dimension.

Congress-I MP's Ask President To Dismiss Singh

BK2410155990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] About 100 Congress-I MP's [members of Parliament] have appealed to the president to ask Mr. V.P. Singh to resign, failing which, they said, he should be dismissed. In a statement, they accused the prime minister of trying to destroy the party-based democracy in the country.

BJP Calls For Assurance of Singh Position

BK2510091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has urged the president to ensure that Mr. V.P. Singh functions as a transitional prime minister till the 7th of next month when he is to prove his majority on the floor of the Lok Sabha. In a statement, the party's general secretary, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, said the government should desist from taking any major policy decision and shun misuse of official machinery and media till that time. Mr. Sharma also charged the V.P. Singh government with

pursuing, what he called, divisive and communal politics since it came to power. The BJP, he said, is determined to expose this.

Janata Dal Chief Denies 'Horse Trading'

BK2510035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has ruled out the possibility of his party resorting to horse trading to save the National Front government on the 7th of next month. It may be recalled that a special session of the Lok Sabha has been summoned on that day to give an opportunity to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to prove his majority. Mr. Bommai's remarks came in the wake of two major national parties the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] expressing their apprehensions that the prime minister has gained time to save his government by hook or by crook. Mr. Bommai expressed confidence that the National Front government will win the vote of confidence on the floor of the Lok Sabha with members exercising a conscience vote.

It may recalled that the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh has said that he does not want to stick to power and if it was so the government could have arrived at a compromise with the BJP. Mr. Singh asserted that he will risk the chair for the cause of secularism and unity of the country.

V.P. Singh Urges Youths To Avoid Confrontation

BK2510054090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the youths to avoid confrontation and said the problems can only be solved with love and understanding. Mr. V.P. Singh was addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of the Ministry Of Human Resources Development in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Singh said the youths should be trained not just for jobs but to face the challenges of separatism and communalism. He said that the purpose of constituting a national youth council is to actively involve the youths in the task of nation building.

Earlier, the minister of state for human resources development, Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta, informed the members that an initial sum of 265 crore rupees is being provided for youths' programs in the current financial year.

Muslim Leader To Cooperate on Shrine Issue

BK2410162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid [chief prayer leader of the grand mosque], Delhi, Syed Abdullah Bukhari, has said that he is prepared for talks with any political party or organization to resolve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. He said he will extend full cooperation for an amicable solution to the vexed problem, but will oppose demolition of the mosque.

Jaipur Death Toll Rises; More Forces Deployed

BK2510041090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, the death toll in the riot-torn Jaipur city has risen to 23. The walled city and (Sastinanagar) areas of the city are under a 48-hour curfew. The chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, visited the riot-affected areas last night. The minister of state for home, Mr. (Shantilal Chatlow) [name and title as heard] told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that besides six units of the Army additional paramilitary and central police forces are being deployed in the riot-affected areas. Mr. (Chatlow) described the situation in the city as under control. The curfew also continued in Jodhpur and Devad towns.

Roundup on Violent Incidents in Several States

BK2510102190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] An agency report, quoting official sources, says that in Rajasthan the death toll in yesterday's violence and police firing in Jaipur City has risen to 34. The condition of seven others is said to be serious. The situation in curfew-bound areas is reported to be tense but under control. The state chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, visited the trouble-torn areas late last night.

In Gujarat, the situation in Ahmedabad and other parts of the state is reported to be peaceful today. However, indefinite curfew in Jamnagar and Bhisa continues as a precautionary measure. In Karnataka, a 48-hour curfew has been clamped on Hubli City since this morning following violent incidents. Several stabbing cases were reported from the city last night. One person succumbed to injuries.

In West Bengal, at least two persons were reported killed when police opened fire to disperse two clashing groups in Pilkhana area of Howrah District last night. According to an agency report, the clash took place between two armed groups in which 15 persons were injured and a few shops were damaged.

In Assam, curfew continues in Halakandi Town of Doranth Valley. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the district so far. In Uttar Pradesh, the Army staged a flag march today in Kanpur City as a precautionary measure.

Terrorists Kill Five, Injure Four in Punjab

BK2510060090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have shot dead five persons and injured four in separate incidents, while the police have arrested three terrorists since last evening.

According to an official spokesman, the terrorists have gunned down three persons, including two women and injured three, including an assistant sub-inspector of police, in separate incidents in Amritsar District. In Gurdaspur District, terrorists shot dead two youths and injured a BSF [Border Security Force] jawan [soldier] in separate incidents in the Batala area.

PRC Radio, TV Team Meets Radio Official

BK2110133090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by the vice minister for radio and TV, Mr. Wang Feng, called on the director general of All India Radio, Mr. A.R. Shinde, in New Delhi today. The delegation is now in India for an exchange of views on professional matters with their Indian counterparts.

Naval Communications Facility Launched

BK2110094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, dedicated to the nation, the 122 crore rupee Skylark project, a very low frequency naval communication facility at Vijayanagaram near Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu yesterday. With this, India is the first Asian country and the fifth in the world to have this highly sophisticated communication network. Our correspondent says that with the commissioning of the project, India joins the exclusive club of world maritime powers to possess the technology to communicate with submarines in a submerged condition.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said the naval establishment of the southern most corner of the country, besides carrying out this stategic task, will also act as a catalyst of economic and social progress in this area. He recalled the services rendered by the Indian Navy in the Maldives and in Sri Lanka. He expressed the hope that the communication facility at the station will strengthen the Indian Navy and enable it to defend the country's coastline with enhanced professional efficiency.

Mrs. Janaki Venkataraman named the establishment as INS Kattabomman after the great Tamil freedom fighter, Veerapandiya Kattabomman. The union minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, also spoke on the occasion.

Iran

Khamene'i Address Views Palestinians, Majles

LD2410164590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Address by "His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, Exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and guardian of the cause of Muslims" at a 24 October reception for invited guests; place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Since the first day of the revolution we have completed many stages of a difficult path. If anyone denies this, he either cannot see, or has no conscience. If anyone imagines that the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic have not been successful in attaining their aims, he is either blind with respect to knowledge, or blind in his heart of conscience, or lacking in fairness. We have made a great deal of progress. Today, you will not find any government or nation under the sun like Iran from the point of view of giving importance to human values, that is: Freedom, pride, independence, not being a slave, not being humble, not tolerating kicks and blows from other powers and governments, not jumping at others' commands, advancing according to one's own interest and will, with every single person having a sense of responsibility, a sense of action, and having knowledge and strength. We will not find any other nation or government like the nation and government of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the totality of these issues. [crowd chants in support]

This is only a fraction of the victories of the Islamic Republic. There have been other great victories. In the course of the past 10 or 12 years the amount of service which has been rendered to the deprived people and the oppressed strata, to the villages, to villagers, to the remote areas, to the unpublicized but useful works, despite the war, despite the economic embargo, has been many times the amount of work which had been carried out during long years of the tenure of former governments. We have made a great deal of progress. However, you should know that despite all the progress we have made, we still have a lot of work ahead of us. There are still many issues facing us.

This nation, with utmost strength, should safeguard the same factors which have provided it with so many victories and which have brought it to the present state, in order to achieve future victories. We still have a lot to do.

Today I thought of talking about one issue which is among the issues of interest to the Islamic nation and the Islamic Republic; namely, the issue of holy Jerusalem and the wronged Palestinian nation. Can we ignore this issue, forget about it? Is such a thing possible? It is one of the characteristics of the Islamic system that its decisions are made on the basis of faith, of divine injunctions. None of the jurists of Islam have any difference of

opinion or any hesitation regarding the fact that when an enemy dominates the land of the Muslims, and when it threatens the Islamic rule in a country, it is the duty of all Muslims to fight against that enemy in a great and comprehensive jihad, to expel the enemy from that Islamic land, and to punish him. Is the renegade, dangerous and criminal Zionism, which is the enemy of Islam and Muslims, an aggressor or not? Is the Palestinian land the home of the Muslims and the qiblah [direction toward which Muslims pray] of Muslims, or not? For over 40 years the vilest enemy of Islam and the enemy of humanity, namely the treacherous and cunning Zionists, have dominated a part of our existence, part of our home and our territory. What is our duty? What is the duty of Muslims? What is the duty of other Islamic nations toward the issue of Palestine? Is it their duty to remain silent?

One should spit upon the subservient and traitorous leaders of countries who, for the sake of ruling a few days more, and for the sake of winning the favors of the United States and major powers have neglected such a great duty. The Islamic nation should be vigilant. It should not forget this duty. God's enemy benefited from the negligence of the Muslims. Otherwise, at the beginning, a few hundred thousand Zionists, and even now one or two million of them, despite all the fringes [havashi], which they have brought together from all over the world, how powerful can they be? [sentence as heard]

If the leaders of Islamic countries had been alert, if Islamic nations had been vigilant, could U.S. support have saved Israel under those circumstances? Never. It is due to the negligence of Muslims that the enemy has been able to act so arrogantly. The enemy is not so strong. We have been neglectful of our own strength.

Now we see that as soon as a diversion is created in this region, directed at public opinion—the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the dispatch of U.S. and other forces to the Persian Gulf region—as soon as these events took place, immediately that dangerous seven-headed dragon, that evil cancer flexed its muscles, and is behaving in this manner toward the Muslims whose homes have been usurped by the Zionists. Why is the world not reacting? Why do Islamic nations keep quiet in the face of so much crime and such a calamity? What is the basis of support for Israel and for the Zionist Enemy? Can the United States be so powerful that the leaders and politicians of Islamic countries are so intimidated?

Nations should awaken and raise their heads. They can see today that the so-called human rights organizations, the so-called humanist and philanthropic organizations, according to their titles, their claims, and their headings, have not taken a single step. All their claims are proven to be false. Do they not see this? A usurping, renegade, and bullying government in killing defenseless human beings, adolescents and youths, and young children in front of their homes, inside their homes, in the streets which belong to them; yet no sound can be heard from anywhere in the world. However, if one Palestinian youth reacts and sends two or three people to hell, one from this side of the world and another one from the other side of the world will raise their voices and express their regrets. What regrets? He did very well. Power to his elbow. A nation which cannot defend its rights deserves to be suppressed. At first, the Palestinians were asleep and negligent, and the enemy dominated them. Today, Palestine has awoken. The Muslims in Palestine are awake.

The Zionists do not understand any other language except the language of force. For 40 years they have rejected any resolution the United Nations has issued regarding the issue of Palestine and the Zionists. They have become spoiled. They have witnessed the silence and forbearance of big powers, of nations and governments, and they have become insolent. They are not afraid of resolutions. Israel cannot be made to retreat with resolutions. Israel will be made to retreat with force, with weapons, and with fists. [crowd chants slogans]

If it were not for this internal pressure young Palestinians are exerting against the Zionist Government, these odious Zionist ringleaders would take advantage of the world's hue-and-cry in the Persian Gulf, and would by now have grabbed half of Lebanon. They began to do this, but due to internal pressure, this same empty-handed and victimized attack of these devoted and brave Palestinian youths kept them in their place.

Another side of the problem is that the anger of the Zionists is due to the escalation of the Islamic movement inside the territories. This is our responsibility. It is the responsibility of all Islamic countries. The problems of Palestine does not pertain merely to Arabs, not to Palestine's neighbors. All the world's Muslims, wherever they are, should feel responsible toward the Palestine issue. Those who are genuinely fighting inside, or from the outside—not those who claim to support freedom but whose hands are joined with the hands of the United States and enemies of Islam, I do not mean these—those who are genuinely fighting against the usurper Zionist government should be assisted by our nation, by our government, by other Muslim nations, other governments. They should be helped with money, arms, propaganda; they should be helped in every possible way. If we cannot conduct a confrontational struggle against Israel ourselves, because we are not neighbors with Palestine and others, those who also are not neighbors, or for whatever reason are not capable of confrontation, should equip the strugglers. This is a religious and binding duty incumbent on all Muslims, and until this duty is carried out the Palestine problem will not be solved. If it is carried out the Zionists and their backers will definitely be defeated. [chants, including: "Death to America"; "Death to Israel"]

I also wish to talk about certain domestic issues—very briefly, of course, since I do not want to get involved in details right now. One issue is the two letters that the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly wrote to

me in the course of the past two weeks or so. Two factions of the Majles deputies sent two letters; as a matter of fact, one of these arrived, and we heard about the other from the media. In any case, they composed the letters and wanted a reply from us. I will reply at the right time—not now. I will also talk at the right time about some necessary issues, at a time when I feel that issues should be explained more clearly and in a more detailed form for our dear nation. I will confine myself to one sentence here, which is: Our nation has placed its hope in the Majles. The Majles is a trench for this nation, but a trench vis-a-vis the enemies, vis-a-vis the United States, vis-a- vis the counterrevolutionaries. The person who is sent by the people to this trench is sent there so that he may defend the revolution.

One has heard certain remarks by some Majles deputies in recent days, remarks which did not sound like those of one of us, but those of outsiders. We had heard remarks of a similar type made only by Radio Israel, Radio America, Radio Monafeq, and such like. No one has made such remarks in the Majles. They should not say: We are not free in the Majles; that is not so! Deputies are free in the Majles. No one should be teaching us, or the country's current officials—who have spent their lives struggling for the sake of freedom—what freedom is about! Deputies have a right to freedom; the nation has a right to freedom. But freedom to do what? The freedom to stand there—agaisnt the nation, contrary to the wishes of the nation—and talk just like an announcer on Radio Israel? No, this is not freedom; it is not. This is not a freedom to be enjoyed by anyone in an Islamic society. The revolution of this nation is more dear and precious than the nation wanting to permit someone motivated by personal grudges, or group or factional biases, to stand in the trench where the revolution is defended, and to question everything, and to speak against the revolution and the people to the detriment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, thus providing material for radios, and saying things which removes the need for radio commentaries. This nation will categorically not allow such a thing.

I wish to address both factions: They themselves talk of two factions. Personally, I do not see any difference between faithful, sincere and revolutionary deputies. Nevertheless, let us call it two factions. It is not important. I wish to tell both factions in the Majles that they should act in such a way that there will not come a time when they see that they are following one path while the nation is following another, that their constituents are not behind them. If the Islamic Consultative Majles is turned into a place where individuals settle their scores with one another, gradually this will happen. Also, the efforts of the deputies who are interested in their duties and in their work, will be wasted. Of course, today, most deputies serving in this honorable Majles feel responsible. There is no doubt about it. Our deputies are model deputies compared to the deputies of other national parliaments. You should know that neither in Western nor Eastern countries—all of whom are the same now—nor in Islamic or non-Islamic countries, in none of them are parliamentary deputies as sincere, pure, popular, responsible, and as devoted as our deputies in the lofty Islamic Consultative Majles. There are none like them. They are very good. However, they should safeguard this. They should safeguard it themselves, more than others, lest a number of ignorant, careless, angry individuals who are not aware of their responsibilities act in such a way that they will place a question mark over a pure and holy assembly.

Of course, the people also should safeguard the respect of the Islamic Consultative Majles. It is my duty to remind you of this. What I have said should not cause anyone, God forbid, to show any disrespect toward the Islamic Consultative Majles. The Majles is the highest and the loftiest part of the legal apparatus of our system. It is the home of the nation. They should continue to preserve the dignity and respect of the Majles. No one, either inside or outside the Majles should do anything which might weaken the Majles. [chanting of slogans] [passage omitted]

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Khomeyni Terms Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait 'Plot'

LD2410202990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] A group of the free men [released POWs] met today at Jamaran with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Sayyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

During the meeting, while chanting lamentations, the free men honored the memory of the great leader of the Islamic revolution. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Sayyed Ahmed Khomeyni, while elaborating on those dear persons' struggles, said: You have agreed with your own God not to abandon, even for a moment, the imam's path, the imam's ideals, and the goals of the revolution, and to move on the path of that dear person who has passed away.

Referring to the dear martyrs who have drunk the sweet juice of martyrdom in captivity, he added: While you dear ones lost a number of great martyrs, at the same time you achieved some great goals. Referring to the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf region and the occupation of Kuwait, he stressed: Today, more than any other day, we are in need of being in unison. If we maintain our unity we will overcome all problems. [passage omitted]

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 24 October broadcasts a report on Ahmad Khomeyni's meeting with the released POW's which adds the following to the last graf: "Addressing the free men, Ahmad Khomeyni said: Today, America has taken a position alongside the Saudis and both try to impair the aspirations of the revolution and the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

["Referring to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, he termed it as a plot against the Islamic revolution of Iran, and added: Today, more than at any other time, we are in need of being in unison. If we maintain our unity we will overcome all problems."]

Deputy Criticizes Government Economic Policy

LD2410211190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Speech by Hasan al-Hoseyni, Deputy from Arak, as part of demands to Majles deputies on 24 October, place not specified—recorded]

[Text] The people's incomes, especially the income of that sector of the people who live on fixed salaries, have not increased. The false promises of the relevant authorites have not only not relieved their pains, but in fact the salaries [of civil servants] have been fixed according to market factors based on one [U.S.] dollar being equal to seven tomans, while the real rate of one dollar has now shot up to 140 tomans.

Simultaneous with that trend, social services, whether provided by the private sector or by the government sector, have adopted themselves to the new economic situation—that is, the policy of devaluing the rial. They have thus become expensive. This has had the impact of directly increasiong household expenditures, despite the fact that their income has remained constant.

On the other hand, the industrial sector—which is principally government-owned, producing government-sponsored goods—is in the same situation. This has led to rising prices of industrial products—at times by several-fold. Meantime, the private sector has fully grasped the prevailing conditions; it has thus adopted its operations to the fall in the real value of the rial against foreign currencies. As a result, the private sector is offering their goods and services at higher prices. Since, unfortunately, there is no control over prices, the impact of profiteering must also be added to inflation.

When we add to all those factors the impact of international inflation, as well as such other factors as the waves of [foreign] investments inside the country and their ensuing economic corruption, which encourages the culture of excessive and illegitimate profit-seeking for individual gain, then we understand the volume of ever-increasing pressure on the society's weak and middle classes.

Of course, household income and expenditure in the mirror of statistics, as well as the obvious sorry and worrying situation of households, confirm the existence of these very pressures. In order to correct the situation, the honorable president of the Republic, the respected cabinet, the respected Majles, and all individuals who come from the same classes must find a solution. No other issue must overshadow that important task. God forbid that we may remain negligent, even for a moment.

Crossings Resume on Soviet Azerbaijan Border

LD2410135590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] People living on the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan have begun to cross the border at two points in East Azerbaijan.

According to a Central News Unit report, in implementation of a memorandum of understanding between the authorities of the USSR and those of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the first group of Iranian inhabitants of East Azerbaijan crossed over to the Soviet Azerbaijan republic this morning at the border points of Julfa and Pilesavar in Moghan.

The same report says that 1,200 nationals of the two countries may obtain a travel pass to cross to the other side within 45 km of the border four days a week and for a period of 15 days, without going through passport formalities.

President Receives Comoran Foreign Minister

Discuss Oil Cooperation

LD2410113590 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Wednesday announced Iran's willingness to help the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros in various fields and to cooperate with this Islamic country in areas of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister of Comoros Mtara Maecha, who arrived here on October 19, conveyed a message from his country's president to President Rafsanjani in a meeting this morning. Pointing to common Islamic interests Maecha said that Comoros wanted to purchase Iranian crude and use Iranian expertise. He also said that the president of Comoros was interested in visiting Iran which he hoped to take place in the near future.

Minister Departs for Home

NC2510083390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Comoran Foreign Minister Mr. Mtara Maecha, who was on a visit to our country at the head of a political delegation, left Tehran this morning and was seen off by our Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati.

While speaking to correspondents prior to his departure from Tehran, the foreign minister termed the outcome of his visit positive, and said: The objective of this visit was to expand bilateral relations and to bolster these relations in the cultural, political, and economic fields.

Our foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, stated: The Comoran foreign minister visited Iran for the first time at the invitation of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the two countries are eager to broaden and

consolidate bilateral relations. He explained: Many years ago, some people from our country had migrated to this African country and had assumed the guidance of the Muslims of Comoros and of neighboring countries. For this reason, there are deep-rooted ties between the two countries. He added: Delegations of experts at various levels will soon visit Comoros to broaden relations.

On the conclusion of the Comoran foreign minister's visit, a joint communique of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Comoros was issued. In it, the visiting delegation expressed its happiness at the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in making Iraq accept its rightful stance and condemned Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. The two sides called for the foreign forces to leave the Persian Gulf.

Radio Blames Government for Monarchist's Death

TA2410145490 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Summary from poor reception] Dear compatriots: Dr. Cyrus Elahi, "former professor of Iran's Melli University and one of the most prominent strugglers of the Flag of Freedom Organization, who early this morning was assassinated in Paris by terrorists of the Islamic Republic," was one of the most famous heroes on the path of Iran's freedom and liberation.

"In the aftermath of the establishment of the criminal Islamic Republic regime in Iran, he was one of the first patriots to join the rank of devoted strugglers on the path of his country's freedom." During the past 12 years, he did not cease his struggle for the liberation of Iran. In the Flag of Freedom Organization, Dr. Cyrus Elahi was the epitome of struggle, devotion, and discipline. "He was not this organization's first victim on the path of Iran's liberation from the bloody clutches of the ruling mullahs."

The Flag of Freedom Organization will follow Dr. Elahi's sacred path until the last person and last breath. There is no doubt that we will achieve victory. "Down with the murdering Islamic Republic regime! Long live Iran, long live the Iranian nation!"

*Unloading of Chemicals Destined for Iran Barred

91AS0064f London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Last Wednesday, Turkish customs officials prevented a Polish ship from unloading its cargo at the port of Mersin. This ship's cargo, which came from West Germany, was to be taken overland to Iran after being unloaded at the port of Mersin. Turkish customs officials announced that this ship was carrying 102 tons of cyanide sodium and 31 tons of neoprene, which can be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

The Turkish official's pretext for preventing the cargo from being unloaded was the lack of documents on the ship's cargo. The Polish ship must now return its cargo to Germany. Turkish customs officials declined to give the name of the sender of these chemical substances or any additional details about it.

Diplomats in Ankara said that the reason for preventing this cargo from being unloaded was concern by Turkish officials that both Iran and Iraq, Turkey's neighbors, have obtained chemical weapons, and that this could be a threat to Turkey in the future. The Islamic Republic regime has not yet reacted to the Turkish government's action.

Although in recent weeks Turkish president Turgut Ozal has exchanged views regularly by telephone with Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning the situation in the region, a Turkish delegation also went to Tehran last week, and relations between the two countries were evidently improving, but propaganda against Turkey, which is regularly published in Iran's press, shows the lack of sincerity and closeness between the Tehran regime and the Turkish government.

*Al-Asad Persuades President on Regional Security

91AS0064D London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who on the first night of Hafiz Al-Asad's arrival in Tehran attacked the idea of creating a regional pact and called it an American plot, changed his mind after talking with Hafiz Al-Asad. In the joint statement by the two countries on this subject, it was emphasized that "the creation of a regional security system with the participation of the nations of the region is the best and most useful way to provide security and stability for the nations and countries of the region."

With the study of the text of the joint statement issued after the end of Hafiz Al-Asad's visit to Tehran, it becomes clear that one of the things achieved by Hafiz Al-Asad's trip was changing Hashemi-Rafsanjani's mind on this subject.

*Khalkhali's Warning to Khamene'i Reported

91AS0064E London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali, whose competence to register as a candidate for election to the Assembly of Experts was rejected by the Council of Guardians, warned Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic regime's "leader", in a harsh speech to the Majles, that his turn would also come and that the same people who have today pushed aside Karrubi, Mohtashemi, and Khalkhali, will also remove him from the position of leader tomorrow.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reported from Tehran that a statement from "those who were removed" was also read in the Majles. They warned Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i that there is a plot to bring Americanized Islam into power over the Islam of Mohammad, and they called upon him not to permit this plot to succeed.

***Experts Reject Karrubi, Mohtashemi, Khalkhali**

91AS0064B London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 pp 1-2

[Text] The elections for the 83 members of the Islamic Republic regime's Assembly of Experts will be held on 16 Mehr (18 October). Last week the names were published of 109 candidates for these elections whose competence has been approved by the Council of Guardians.

According to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the Council of Guardians declined to approved the competence of Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Majles; 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, leader of the group opposing Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Majles; and Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali.

Karrubi, Mohtashemi, and Khalkhali registered in Tehran for membership on the Assembly of Experts. The Council of Guardians approved the competence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic; Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani; Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary; Hojjat ol-Eslam Amami-Kashani; and Ayatollah Meshkini.

The elimination of Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, at a time when he is hospitalized, has called the attention of political observers to his unfavorable situation within the Islamic Republic regime. Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi's brother, named Sheykh Hasan Karrubi, was also arrested a few weeks ago and he is also in prison now.

The announcement of the incompetence of those who registered for these elections at least means that they are not at the level of a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, and that they cannot give an opinion concerning the selection of the "leader." We note that the Assembly of Experts' only responsibility is to select or dismiss the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] and "leader" of the Islamic Republic, and its members are elected for a period of eight years.

The importance this assembly has on the fate of the vali-ye faqih has caused Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i to make serious preparations to keep their opponents out of it. This was done three months ago when the regulations on determining the competence of candidates for the Assembly of Experts were changed, and it was decided that the competence of those who register as candidates for these elections will be decided by the Council of Guardians, and that the candidates must definitely be fully qualified persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence. Formerly, it was sufficient for candidates to obtain an affidavit certifying their competence from a Qom seminary teacher, and this was usually done with advice, threats, and corruption.

'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who saw the possibility of being pushed aside three months ago, vigorously opposed these changes, but as we predicted, his efforts got nowhere. The clashes and wars of words over the election of the Assembly of Experts have filled the pages of many of the nation's newspapers in recent days, and these clashes are expected to increase with the approach of election day.

***Purchase of More Military Hardware Reported**

91AS0064A London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Following the reported delivery of MiG-14's by the Soviet Union to the Islamic Republic, Western news sources reported early this week that in the past few months, in establishing contacts with weapons-producing countries and also with international arms brokers, the Islamic regime of Tehran is seeking to purchase significant quantities of various kinds of weapons. The Prague journal STUDENTSKE LISTY reports that last June military officials of the Islamic regime signed a secret contract with Czech arms manufacturers to buy a quantity of weapons from this nation. In part of its report the publication disclosed that the arms ordered by the Islamic Republic included a significant number of tanks valued at more than $300 million.

The publication in question gave 300 as the number of tanks ordered by the Islamic Republic from Czechoslovakia. An expert on Middle Eastern economic affairs told KEYHAN's correspondent that although in the last few years the Islamic Republic has faced foreign exchange problems due to the drop in international oil prices as well as reduced exports of this energy substance, instead of allocating the limited foreign exchange and oil revenue to the procurement of what is needed by the people, putting the nation's bankrupt industries back into operation, investing in development projects and putting the unhealthy economy in order, the Tehran regime's officials have allocated most of these revenues to the purchase of various weapons. Noting that with the end of the war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq there is no longer any obstacle to conducting arms deals with the Tehran regime, these experts pointed out that during the last year the regime's officials have purchased significant amounts of various kinds of weapons from North Korea, China, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, South Korea, and several Western industrialized countries.

An analyst of international commercial affairs announced that apparently the MiGs delivered to the Islamic Republic by the Kremlin were only part of a large arms deal signed last year with the Soviet Union by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The expert said: Information obtained from reliable sources indicates that the contract to buy arms from the Soviet Union is valued at more than $6 million, and that the number of MiG-29's purchased is 14. The newspaper DIE WELT published in the Federal Republic of Germany, reporting the display of MiG-29's in a parade of the Islamic Republic's military forces in Tehran, noted that initially Moscow had intended to deliver the MiG-29's to East Germany. However, the change in political climate in Eastern Europe and the completion of preparations to consolidate East and West Germany eliminated the delivery of

the MiG-29's to Berlin, and the Kremlin decided to deliver this type of advanced aircraft to the Islamic Republic as part of a large arms purchase.

*Several Hojjaj ol-Eslam Reportedly Arrested

91AS0064C London KEYHAN in Persian
4 Oct 90 pp 1-2

[Text] According to a reliable report from Tehran, in the last four weeks the regime's security officials have arrested and imprisoned some prominent members of the government. The report of the arrest of two of them, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sarfarazi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Karrubi was printed in KEYHAN number 320.

This report states that as of Monday 2 Shahrivar (24 September) the location of the prison where those arrested are kept has not been released.

The arrested persons whose names were given to KEYHAN are:

1. Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. 'Abbas 'Ali Sarfarazi, an influential member of the Tehran Militant Clerics Association and right-hand man of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, a member of the regime's National Security Council, member of the Central Council of the Tehran Militant Clerics Association, Khamene'i's representative on the Armed Forces Support Staff, the chief of the East Tehran Militant Clerics Association, the trustee of the Davud Emamzadeh Shrine, and the chief of the Al-Zahra' Society, he is a graduate of Al-Azhar University.

2. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Karrubi, the brother of Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, former chief of the Housing Foundation, and member of the Martyrs Foundation, early in the revolution this person supervised the confiscation of the people's assets.

3. Dr. Aspahbodi, Engineer Bazargan's minister of labor and the Islamic Republic's purchase agent in Hamburg (Germany), severed his relationship several years ago with Engineer Bazargan and the Freedom Movement.

4. Seyyed Hoseyn Sharifi, a merchant and owner of the Dar Ma'ruf factory, owner of the Khazar Tile and Ceramic Factory in north Rasht, he evidently was arrested in connection with a very rich merchant named Haj 'Ala'eddin.

5. Dr. Zeyqami 'Ala'eddini, dentist and friend of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sarfarazi.

6. Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, an Iraqi repatriate who had been given the use of the home of Dr. Hushang Nehavandi, and whose family is living there now, he built a large poultry ranch near Damavand and evidently had close relations with the chief of the Cultural Revolution Council.

7. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Moqaddam, the imam of the Hamburg Mosque Congregation, it is said that he was probably released from prison because of his wife's severe illness.

8. Engineer Bijan Mehdi-Panah, a high-ranking employee of the National Iranian Oil Company and involved in the management of planning for the oil company's organizational planning, he also was probably released after being arrested.

The reliable source who gave this report to KEYHAN called upon Iranians to report this to international authorities to get these people out of prison. According to this source, these people are being tortured in prison to force them to make false confessions and take part in propaganda television programs. This source has written that there will probably be more arrests in the days to come. The source writes that these people will possibly be charged with various crimes, from running brothels to spying.

*RESALAT Reports Majles Debates

*16 Sep

91AS0003A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
17 Sep 90 pp 5, 12

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian.

During this session, the representatives of Borujerd, Malayer, Aligudarz, and Tehran made some remarks as pre-agenda speakers.

The following is the text of the remarks made by the pre-agenda speakers and the resolutions passed by the Majles.

Mohammad Karim Moraveji, the Representative of the People of Borujerd: Per Our Late Imam, America Is Still the Great Satan

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Mohammad Karim Moraveji from the Borujerd constituency. He began his remarks by praising the sacred spirit of the late imam and greeting the exalted leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Continuing he added: The most pressing foreign issue is the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and the military expedition of the great satan in the Persian Gulf. While condemning the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, we still consider America to be the great satan—per our late imam, the ever-alert passed lion—and consider waging war against it, as ordered by the exalted leader of the revolution, as the holy crusade in the path of God. It would be nice if those who declare their support for the decree of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in matters of minor importance, also declare their support regarding this issue—as was done by the Majles.

The recent escapades in the Persian Gulf which proved, firstly, Iran's rightfulness during the eight years of holy defense, secondly, Iran's innocence and, thirdly, the power and glory of the Islamic Republic for its eight years of resistance before an Iraq which was being supported by the East and the West. This is evident at a time when all the world powers are incapable of harnessing Iraq. What is saddening and regretful in all this adventure is the humiliating welcoming of America by the countries in the region. It is the duty of all Muslims to bravely confront their governments which proffer such significance to America.

He added: The important issue faced by the Islamic society, which is regretfully being ignored, is the issue of Kashmir which has been attacked by the aggressing Indian forces and, on a daily basis, add to their crimes and atrocities. Muslims have not shown a suitable reaction and continue to embolden the aggressor with their shameful silence. The issue of life and honor of Muslims is not a matter to be taken lightly.

He added: Now that the Islamic Republic has turned into the Kabbah of hopes and aspirations of Muslims and all hopeful eyes are affixed on it, it is required of the Foreign Ministry to bravely and seriously support the innocent and not allow the arrogant and the unrighteous to think that the Islamic Republic of Iran has ceased its struggle against world arrogance and forsaken its principals in order to solve its domestic problems.

Continuing he emphasized: The most pressing domestic issue at the present time is the elections for the Assembly of Experts. The significance of the Assembly of Experts is not hidden to anyone, and we must place the recent remarks by the exalted leadership as our guide. Also, by our active participation in the elections, we must seriously refrain from lies, exaggerations, and accusations. Of course, the honor of the candidates is beyond their disregarding the sacred principals of the Islamic religion and the law, although, possibly, their radical followers or their enemies disguised as friends may aim to damage their integrity and character by relating false accusations to them. If the esteemed Friday prayer leaders wish to interfere, it is appropriate that they approach the issue such that no harm comes to the sacredness of the Imamat and Friday prayers—as was unfortunately done during the elections of the Majles.

The most important qualification of the experts, after piety and jurisprudence, is political awareness and recognition of world politics, or rather, as the late imam said, recognizing world politics, which a learned person must be perceptive in his time, must be the focus. Dedication to the revolution and following the line of the imam and velayat are such to be forgotten by our dear people. Fortunately, the sifter of the revolution will separate the true from the untrue and the sincere from the insincere.

Mr. Moraveji added: Now that in accordance with Paragraph A of Note Six of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget law the government is duty bound to identify the deprived counties by the month of Aban [23 October-21 November] in order for them to be given the privilege of utilizing special credits designated for deprived regions, I request from the government to take serious action in regard to Darreh Seydi and Van Bekhrad counties of the central district of the city region of Borujerd—facing shortcomings in the areas of roads, electricity, water, health, schools, and other necessities—and place them in the list of deprived regions.

The representative of the people of Borujerd added: I ask from the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education to investigate the sorry state of affairs of health and treatment in Lorestan Province which, in this regard, is considered the 22nd province in the country. Also, the investigation regarding spoiled vaccines must be conducted and, if it has been due to negligence, it must be dealt with. It is regretful that our people search for a single hypodermic needle and deprived Nurabad lacks a hospital. The construction of a hospital for Alshtar, Pol-e Dokhtar, Azna, and the innocent Kuhdasht which began 10 years ago has not yet been completed. Borujerd lacks a single standard hospital bed for every 1500 of the population. Also, Khorramabad and Aligudarz, in their deprivation, do not fare any better. The Muslim treasury is being plundered. Although, in recent months, due to the earthquake and arrival of the proud POW's, the Health Ministry has been overly busy, but the health and treatment problems of Lorestan Province must not be forgotten and, before the problem reaches a critical point, the esteemed minister must find a solution and pay attention to the petitions of the Lorestan Province association of deputies.

In continuation, while thanking and commending the minister of petroleum for the inauguration of the construction of the Borujerd gas pipeline, he requested that the minister take serious action in regard to the supply of fuel to the deprived province of Lorestan—especially to its cold regions of Borujerd, Aligudarz, and Nurabad—and act to alleviate the problem of gas cylinders.

He also requested that the Voice and Vision place a higher significance on the broadcast of remarks and notices of the Majles deputies. He added: The Ministry of Education and Training repeatedly announces that no fees are collected for school registrations. However, in practice, such is not true in many instances. While we suggest that the people lend a hand to the educational establishment, we expect the Ministry of Education and Training to arrange so that payment of fees for school registration does not appear as mandatory and so the people can believe that the ministry's words and the schools' actions are not contradictory.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Moraveji stated: I ask that the esteemed government officials refrain from causing high expectations in the people by promising them more than can be delivered. In turn, by stating only the facts and mentioning the services that have been or are being rendered, they should refrain from speculating about

implementation of acts which are utterly beyond reach—since the perils of promising and not performing are known to all. We expect the active government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president, to confront the elements who aim to isolate the Hezbollah forces, Basijis, and the war veterans in offices and prevent their activities. Also, those who weaken the Islamic associations in organizations and offices must be dealt with seriously and decisively. Regretfully, there are some who occupy high posts in the offices who do not believe in the revolution and, cleverly, try to push out the dedicated forces.

'Abdollah Nowruzi, the Representative of the People of Malayer: By Creating a Hell To Burn in Or Escape From, the Muslim Youth Will Not Allow Americans To Get Comfortable

Mr. Nowruzi, the representative of the people of Malayer, was the second pre-agenda speaker who at the outset of his remarks stated that the Muslim people of Iran, Egypt, Algeria, the Arabian Peninsula, Pakistan, Turkey, and all other Muslim nations are not dead and will not allow the Kaaba to remain occupied and suffer the same fate as the Honorable Qods [Jerusalem].

He said: The Islamic nation well understands that, if it does not come to its senses and act quickly, the Kaaba will be lost also. This means, either they should not go on pilgrimage or, if they do, they must first kiss the hand of the uncivilized Americans and then the Hajar-ul Aswad. This, of course, is impossible since Islam, the Koran, and the passionate Muslim youth are alive.

He then said: The likes of Malek Ashtar Nakh'i ruled over Egypt, and America was ruled by criminals such Truman. The Algerian nation gave 1.5 million martyrs for the sake of Islam and independence, while America escaped from Vietnam, Iran, and Lebanon. The Islamic nation and the brave youth of Egypt will not allow their womenfolks, who are considered the honor of Islam, to become the means for satisfying the sexual desires of lewd American soldiers, alas from degradation. In place of 10,000 Egyptian women, 10 thousand Muslim youth of Egypt and others must strap bombs and grenades to themselves and blow up all the gathering places of Americans. They should drag American interests into fire. They must set afire American interests in Islamic countries and all over the world. They must attack American war fleets, and oil installations being held by Americans. According to the imam of the crusaders and patience [Khomeyni], they must keep their revolutionary hatred and animosity in their chests. They must look upon the enemy with anger and hatred and know that victory is theirs. Certainly, the Muslim youth will not allow Americans to become comfortable and will create a hell for them to burn in or escape from. And the least of punishments for Fahd—this spot of shame on the fabric of Islam, this worse than Abu Jahl and Abu Lahab who (in the land of the Prophet) dragged the pilgrims in their blood and dirt by accusing them of deliverance of pagans and chanting death to America and the one who sold the honor and assets of Muslims for the sake of his shameful survival—is revolutionary execution as was the fate of the destroyed Sadat at the hands of the true inheritors of Hamzeh, the master of all martyrs, in the Arabian Peninsula.

Mr. Nowruzi then warned Europe and Japan against sending aid and military forces to the region and emphasized: Your aid means that you have wrapped the rope around your own necks. In case of American dominance over the Persian Gulf oil fields, your industries and economies must be kissed good bye unless you become even more dependent.

He also warned Saddam and said: If Iraq does not leave Kuwait, it will become the center of turmoil in the region for generations to come. It has no way but to leave Kuwait.

The representative of the people of Malayer then warned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the issue of ties with England and said: In establishing ties with England, this old colonialist who is experienced in starting fires of war and division in the world, the Foreign Ministry must bear in mind that, although officials of the government are trusted by the nation and the leader, historical experience proves the British government to be fox-like, deceitful, and untrustworthy. It has never upheld, nor will it ever uphold, its moral and international obligations, especially those concerning the Muslim and the Third World countries. Therefore, I advise extreme caution as to avoid becoming the underdog.

The speaker added: Concerning the Majles—which, according to our great imam, is above all affairs—I request from the deputies to safeguard and uphold its respect and honor. We should be watchful that the limit of the Constitution and laws are safeguarded by all so that, God forbid, in the long term it does not suffer the same consequence as the Constitutional [Monarchy] Majles.

In continuation, in some notices, Mr. Nowrouzi announced: I warned the self-sufficient organizations, especially the Telecommunication Company, against raising prices under various guise to avoid making the government the culprit in price gouging and raising prices. I also warn the Majles, the government, and especially the Plan and Budget Commission that if we want to concentrate national facilities—such as centers of higher education and essential and primary installations—in certain towns and regions merely because they are ancillary to previous plans, we will be doing injustice to other people and will face more complicated consequences of immigration. Present agreements, figures, and numbers are witness to this claim and, ultimately, we must be accountable to the nation.

In conclusion, he ask for a review of the facilities in the south western part of the country.

Ahmadi, the Representative of the People of Aligudarz

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Ahmadi, the representative of the people of Aligudarz. In his remarks, he referred to the visit of the speaker of the Majles to Lorestan Province and said: during the past week, due to the visit of the esteemed speaker of the Majles, the province of Lorestan was filled with happiness and joy. The man who, according to the imam of the nation, has always been in the front row of crusaders and the true friend of the exalted leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He was most welcome. His deeds and sincere and humble words were a pleasant demonstration of solidarity of the people, the clergy, and the officials who offered their most sincere emotions to welcome this great servant of the people. In the town of Aligudarz, where the height of this emotion and welcome took place, the brave tribesmen and various strata of the people—especially the exalted families of martyrs—demonstrated joy and happiness along the several kilometers path leading to the location of his speech. Such joy and happiness could not be likened to anything but the feeling prevailing on God's day of 22 Bahman 57 [11 Feb 1978] when His Eminence the Imam, may God place him in heaven, returned to the country. I express and offer my gratitude for the visit of His Excellency to Lorestan Province.

Continuing, he prayed for the speedy recovery of Mr. Karrubi. It seems that a well known band—which has repeatedly been scolded by the great leader of the Islamic revolution and whose behavior has been pegged by the great leader to be worse than Israel—could not bear to see such rare and glorious scenes and, thus, aims to make a mountain out of a molehill. By their despicable lies and vicious fabrications, they aim to fulfill their mission of tarnishing one of the most impressive and grand exhibits of the people's participation—led by the exalted families of martyrs—to glorify and praise the grand servant of the people, His Eminence Ayatollah Karrubi. The same Ayatollah Karrubi who was entrusted by the imam to the guardianship of the martyrs' families due to his special qualifications and the imam's unwavering trust in him. May God protect our nation from the evil of this bunch.

In another part of his speech, concerning the pre-agenda speech of the Paveh deputy, Mr. Ahmadi said: In his pre-agenda speech, Mr. Babakhas criticized the decision to evacuate two boarder villages. Since at the time I was the deputy for political and administrative affairs of the Bakhtaran governorate, I must inform you that the aforementioned villages were being used as cover by the anti-revolution forces to frequently ambush and martyr our dear ones. The decision to evacuate them was repeatedly endorsed by the National Security Council. Their evacuation resulted in several heavy blows against the anti-revolution forces of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and the Kumeleh.

'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Representative of the People of Tehran: Who Are Those Who Cast Doubt Upon the Assembly of Experts Resolutions, Anger the Leader, Became the Subject of His Criticism, and Caused Fear in the People

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the representative of the people of Tehran, was the last pre-agenda speaker. In his remarks, first he offered his condolences on the occasion of the death of the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) and martyrdom of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (peace be upon him). He then said: After greetings and praise to our late imam, that perfect human being who, beside the Immaculate Ones [the holy 14—the prophet Mohammad, his daughter, and the 12 imams] (peace be upon them), no one like has been born. The gracious imam with whose uprising and movement the world Muslims were taught the lesson of how to be true Muslims. The one who wiped clean the book of God from the dust of misinterpretation and brought the true Islam of Mohammad (God bless him and grant him salvation) out of obscurity and, by forming the government, made the world understand that Islam is the religion of man in this world and the afterworld. God's mercy upon the messenger of the revolution who gave life to the dead and transformed the stagnant of history into selfless and devoted crusaders who bravely confronted heresy and paganism. The ones who stood their ground, martyred, disabled, and taken prisoner but did not accept dishonor. Today, we witness the victorious return of the proud POW's such as Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin His Excellency Mr. Torabi and his other companions who make this nation proud. The ones who gave the revolution a new joy and freshness with their high morale. We welcome these symbols of patience and steadfastness. Yes, the great imam! Although you left, your high spirit still endures. You left but your path is filled with your followers. You left but your line persists and as long as the revolution prevails—which, God willing, shall be until the coming of the Absent Imam (may our spirits be sacrificed for him)—your line shall persist. You left but the values and principals which you set still exist. Why?! Because your students still exist. O Imam, You knew this fact and pointed out in your divine political will that: "I depart from among you brothers and sisters with a calm and resolute heart and a mind hopeful of the divine grace." You said yourself that we will never come to a dead-end because we have Mr. Khamene'i. You knew better than anyone else who to train and trust and leave your revolution. That student and son who, as you said, glowed like the sun. The more time passes from his leadership, the more he glows, the more he heartens the lovers of the revolution and the more he disappoints the enemies of the revolution and the nation. A grand leader whose pen exemplifies that of the imam's, his frankness and bravery is like the imam's, his intractability is like the imam's and, finally, his thunder and cry is the reminder of the imam's. When there is talk of direct contact with America, he assails that the government has no right to contact anyone or anywhere without my permission, and it will not do so.

He added: Nowadays, when weak and contemptible governments—such as the regime of Hijaz—have provided a footing for the criminal and aggressor America in the Persian Gulf with the excuse of repelling the aggression, they have turned the sacred shrine of the Lord into a base for pagan inroads, and the region's lackey governments have provide them with the means to satisfy their carnal needs, the exalted leader of the revolution lashes out against America and says, "What right do you have to come here? The fate of the region will be decided by the nations of the region." He then says: "As of today, confronting America in the region is considered a crusade in the path of God and whomsoever is killed in this path will be considered a martyr." O Lord, we thank you for the blessing you bestowed upon us. Our nation and all other Muslim nations must know that, by having such a decisive and clever blessing no harm will come to the revolution and there is no cause for concern or worry. Those who worry about the revolution and Islam more than the exalted leadership and consider themselves as more ardent subscriber to the line of the imam than him and cast fear in the hearts of the people by their wonton statements and analyses are either ignorant, do not understand Velayat-e Faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], or in their hearts is a sickness which God increases. Having such a leader, we are not worried about anything. A leader who, at the time of need, takes charge of the helm and saves the ship from the storm and waves of deviation. A leader who, fortunately, has been present in all the situations and personally follows up on the most minute issues. When there is talk about the Assembly of Experts and its resolutions—the ones which do not agree with the nature of some individuals, and, by bringing up certain questions, cast doubts upon the experts of the nation and cause questions and doubts in the hearts of some—the exalted leadership and the master of Muslims thunders and screams at them that, "Why do you cast fear and doubt in the hearts of the people, pose questions, assist and cheer the enemies, and disappoint the friends? I have seen the resolutions of the Assembly of Experts and have researched them. They are flawless in form and the Assembly members acted within their legal rights."

Mr. Nateq-Nuri stated: Who were the ones who cause the leader to cry out? Who are the ones who are the subject of his anger and admonition? Who are the ones who, with their unfounded analysis, cast fear in the hearts of the people? Certainly His Eminence was not talking about the people outside the country, since others have nothing to do with the conditions and resolutions of our experts. These people know very well who were being addressed by the leader. Also, the alert and dedicated to the Velayat-e Faqih people of Iran are well aware of this. We hope that by hearing this roar of the leadership they settle down and refrain from aiding the enemies of Islam and the revolution.

The representative of the people of Tehran added: The exalted leadership indicated several points concerning the future Assembly of Experts which, hopefully, will be noted by all:

A. People must know that participation in the elections is an obligation. It is incumbent upon all to be present in this election. Certainly the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation will respond positively to the call of the leader.

B. Vote for those who are recognized as having divine piety, scientific and moral qualification, and whose hearts have been, and continue to be, with the revolution.

C. Consider the demonstrative aspect of publicity campaigns and refrain from negativism against others. Mention the good points about your candidates, but refrain from being disrespectful to individuals and other candidates. We hope that you have listened to and follow the guidance of the exalted leadership.

The Enactments of the Majles

Investigation and approval of the details of the Unemployment Insurance Bill was concluded during yesterday's open session of the Majles.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the investigation of details of the Unemployment Insurance Bill, which the following articles were passed:

Article One: All those who are eligible under the Social Security Law which are subject to the Labor and Agricultural Labor Laws are eligible and subject to the guidelines of this law.

Note—The following groups are exempt from inclusion in the guidelines of this law:

1. The retired and the totally incapacitated.
2. The self-employed and the self-insured.
3. Foreign nationals.

Article Two: The unemployed is considered to be the insured who has involuntarily lost his job and is prepared to work.

Note One—The insured who are considered temporarily unemployed due to changes in the economic structure of a certain unit, based on the evaluation of the responsible ministry and confirmation of the High Council for Labor, shall be eligible under the guidelines of this law.

Note Two—The insured who have been made unemployed as a result of natural or unexpected causes such as flood, earthquake, war, and fire may take advantage of unemployment insurance upon introduction by the local office of labor and social security.

Article Three: The unemployment insurance is considered a social security support and the Social Security Organization is obligated to pay out unemployment insurance payments to those who have been unemployed in accordance with this law, by collecting the appropriate insurance premiums from them.

Article Four: The insured unemployed shall be eligible for benefits upon written introduction of the local office of labor and social security.

Note—The unemployed who are eligible under this law, shall be eligible to receive all related benefits and compensations (subject of the labor law).

Article Five: The unemployment insurance premiums shall be three percent of the insured wages of the insured person which shall be fully secured and paid by the employer.

Note—The determination of eligibility of an insured person, the method of determining the unemployment insurance benefits, the method of its collection, responsibilities of the insured and the employer, and also the method of investigating disputes, violations, and other related guidelines of this nature shall be based on the procedures which have been prescribed for the insurance premiums for other social security supports within the law and the guidelines related to social security.

Article Six: The unemployed insured shall be eligible to receive unemployment compensation if qualified under the following criteria: (a) The insured should have paid unemployment insurance premiums for at least six months prior to unemployment. Those eligible under Note Two of Article Two shall be exempt from this article. (b) Within 30 days after unemployment, the insured is obligated to inform one of the labor and social affairs offices of his unemployment and declare his readiness for specialized or other such work. Delays beyond 30 days, up to three months, may be possible with a valid excuse and approval of the Arbitration Council. (c) The unemployed insured is obligated to participate in job training and educational sessions set up by the labor and social affairs office, the Literacy Movement, and other such appropriate organizations which may be designated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. A written verification of his participation in such sessions shall be provided to a branch office of the social security.

Note One—Workers who, at the time of receiving unemployment compensation, engage in a job or jobs which their level of salary and benefits are less than that of the unemployment compensation shall receive the insured difference from the account of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Note Two—The duration of unemployment insurance compensation shall be from the time of temporary or permanent eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. This shall be a maximum of 36 months for the unmarried and a maximum of 50 months for the married and those who support a family—based on their general history of insurance premiums and in accordance with the following table:

Premium Payment History	Maximum Duration of Eligibility, Including Past Cycles	
	Single	Married
From 6 Months to 24 Months	6 Months	12 Months
From 25 Months to 120 Months	12 Months	18 Months
From 120 Months to 180 Months	18 Months	26 Months
From 181 Months to 240 Months	26 Months	36 Months
From 241 Months	36 Months	50 Months

A. The aged eligible under this law who are 55 years and older shall be covered and eligible to receive unemployment insurance compensation up to the retirement age, as long as they are not working.

B. The amount of daily benefits to the insured unemployed shall be 55 percent of average wages, salaries, or daily compensation. Benefits for individuals who are married or support a family of up to a maximum of four persons shall be increased by 10 percent of the minimum wages for each and every member of the family. In any case, the total compensation to each beneficiary shall not be less than the minimum wages nor shall it be over 80 percent of the average of wages or salary.

C. The unemployment insurance shall be payable as of the first day of unemployment.

Note One—For the purpose of calculation, the average wages and salaries of the insured unemployed shall be defined as the sum total of the insured receivables—on the basis of which premiums have been collected—during the last 90 days prior to becoming unemployed divided by the number of working days. In the case of the insured unemployed who receive commission piecework wages, the last wage is defined as the sum total of the insured receivables—on the basis of which premiums have been collected—during the last 90 days prior to unemployment divided by 90—if during the aforementioned three months the insured has, for a time, received wage compensation. The average wages which are considered as basis for the calculation of wage compensation shall also be considered as the wages during the period of unemployment and so shall be included in calculations.

Note Two—Those considered as dependents, subject of this law, are as follows:

1. Spouse (husband or wife).
2. Unmarried children who are unemployed.
3. Male children under the full age of 18, whose sole occupation is education or those who are considered to be totally disabled—based on the evaluation of a reliable physician acceptable to the Social Security Organization.
4. Father or mother, if the father's age is above 60 years or considered to be totally disabled—based on the evaluation of a physician who is reliable and acceptable to the Social Security Organization—and whose sustenance is provided solely by the insured.

5. Dependent brother or sister, if they fit the criteria of male and female children mentioned in paragraphs two and three of this note.

Note Three—Receiving unemployment insurance benefits shall not prevent the receipt of a meager pension.

Note Four—In case of unemployment of both husband and wife, only one shall be eligible for the additional compensation for each of the children.

Note Five—During the period while receiving unemployment insurance compensation, the insured unemployed and his dependents shall be eligible to benefit from medical services subject of Paragraphs A and B of Article Three of the Social Security Law.

Note Six—The unemployment insurance benefits, like all other social security benefits, shall be exempt from any and all taxes.

Article 8: The unemployment insurance compensations shall be discontinued in the following cases:

A. When the insured is re-employed.

B. If the local labor and social affairs office or the Literacy Movement or other appropriate units designated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs declare that the unemployed insured refrains from participation in training sessions and literacy classes without offering a valid excuse.

C. The insured unemployed balks at accepting his specialized job or a similar one.

D. The unemployed insured, while receiving unemployment compensation, becomes eligible for receiving retirement or general disability benefits.

E. The insured, by somehow receiving the wages for the duration of unemployment, returns to work.

Note One—If after payment of unemployment insurance benefits it is proven that the unemployment of the insured had been due to personal wishes, the recipient will be obligated to return the received amounts to the Social Security Organization.

Individuals who are subject to Paragraph E of this article will also be obligated to pay back their unemployment insurance compensation to the aforementioned organization.

Note Two—If the insured unemployed conceals his reemployment while still collecting unemployment insurance compensation, he is obligated to return the collected sums as of the date of reemployment.

Note Three—Receiving financial aid during training shall not hinder collection of unemployment insurance benefits.

Article Nine: In coordination with Islamic Councils or labor representatives, employers are obligated to declare to centers for employment services a list of vacant positions as they become available.

The aforementioned positions (with the exception of high expertise positions) shall be filled exclusively by centers for employment services from the ranks of the unemployed.

Note One—Each year the government is obligated to forecast the budget requirements for employment plans, subject of this law, through the banking system and credit supply sources of the Social Security Organization and take appropriate steps to implement these plans either independently or through cooperative and private companies under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Note Two—With the referral from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the unemployed subject of this law shall have priority for obtaining industrial, agricultural, and service permits.

Note Three—In conjunction with implementation of the Unemployment Insurance Law, the Vocational and Professional Training Organization of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is obligated to make preparations for training programs for skills required in the job market and, also, retraining and refresher training courses for workers being covered by the unemployment insurance, subject of Paragraph C of Article Seven of this law, in vocational and professional training centers or training centers in the vicinity of factories.

The related expenses shall be payable from the credit line of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, in accordance with the guidelines to be proposed by the Vocational and Professional Training Organization and the Social Security Organization and subject to the approval of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education.

Note Four—The Literacy Movement is obligated to, in cooperation with employers and appropriate ministries, act upon formation of literacy classes for the illiterate subject of this law.

Article 10: The Social Security Organization is obligated to keep a separate book for unemployment insurance premium receivables and unemployment insurance payments, subject of this law, and so reflect it in its financial records and submit an annual report of its financial activities to the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, as well as the minister of labor and social affairs and the Economic Council.

Article 11: The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Social Security Organization shall be responsible for implementation of this law.

Article 12: The Social Security Organization is obligated to secure the expenses subject of this law exclusively from incomes that are earned from the same.

Article 13: The timetable for implementation of this law shall be as of the conclusion of the Experimental Unemployment Insurance Law.

Article 14: The executive guidelines for implementation of this law shall be prepared within one month by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and shall be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The second item on the agenda was the bill for the correction of Article 22 of the Publications Law—passed on 13 March 1985 and which was returned by the Council of Guardians—the text of which was passed by the Majles as follows:

Article One: The last part of Article 22 of the Publications Law shall be corrected as follows:

Article 22: The arrival of publications into the country and also their exit shall be in accordance with religious principals and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic regime.

The entry and exit criteria shall be prepared within two months by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance and shall be approved and enacted for five years by the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission of the Majles—in accordance with Principal 85 of the Constitution.

The third and last item on the agenda was the correction of the plan for attaching certain items to the Law for Preservation of the Memories and Works of Imam Khomeyni. Articles Two and Three of this plan were corrected to reflect the views of the esteemed Council of Guardians.

*26 Sep

91AS0053A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Islamic Consultative Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian.

This session was called to order after remarks by the deputies from Abadan, Taft, Kazerun, and Mashhad.

The following is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and the report of the open session:

Mohammad Rashidian, the Representative of the People of Abadan: Reconstruction Must Be Based on the War Victims' Return to Their Traditional and Former Jobs

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Rashidian from the Abadan constituency who, in reference to the issue of the Assembly of Experts, said: The Assembly of Experts enjoys a high status in the Constitution and the regime of the Islamic Republic. I request that the Hezbollah nation and the people of Iran participate in the Assembly of Experts elections and demonstrate, once again, their usual grandeur and might by being present on the scene. The people should vote for those who are in the line of the imam and in the line of Islam. Those who, in the course of the Islamic Revolution, were imprisoned, tortured, flagellated, and suffered poverty and pain. It is required of the esteemed Council of Guardians, who are the appointees of His Eminence the imam and the eminent leadership, to hold high the value and sanctity of the leadership by drafting and electing revolutionary individuals who, as perceived by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, possess high political insights and not those who always had a hand on fire from a distance.

Regretfully, nowadays, the murmur of the worry is being heard that some characters who were beside the imam after the year 1341 [21 March 1962-20 March 1963] and within the dimensions of the struggle and walked shoulder to shoulder with the exalted leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni (may God place his spirit in heaven) become subjects of disfavor. These are great characters who are respected by the Hezbollah nation, the Islamic Consultative Majles, and the esteemed deputies. Care must be taken so that the likes of Mr. Mohtashemi, Mr. Bayat, Mr. Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i (the esteemed brother of the eminent leader of the revolution), and some other personalities who are indeed among those who have suffered, were tortured, are scholarly and learned and those who are informed and aware of issues are not, God forbid, susceptible to disfavor. It is regretful if such a situation prevails since it weakens the revolution and even the position of the velayat-e amr [rule of the jurisconsult].

Dealing with revolutionary and personalities known to the Iranian people and the Hezbollah nation should not be, God forbid, conducive to creating splits and causing problems in the society.

The speaker then attempted to analyze the reasons for Abadan's siege and said: What caused the fall of Khorramshahr and the siege of Abadan during the early days of the war was the special perception or mental deviation which was inherent in Bani Sadr and his misguided friends. The Ashkani thesis of "Give the land to buy time" which meant after the capture of Khorramshahr by Iraqi forces, these people were prepared to present to the enemy the towns and cities of Khuzestan, such as Abadan and Ahvaz, one after another.

However, the imam's decree that Abadan's siege should be broken resulted in the failure of this thesis. By the imam's order and the solidarity of the Hezbollah nation, combatants from all across the country and the 77th Division of Khorasan, in the offensive which took place on 27 September, at one hour past midnight disbanded the enemy's army within approximately one hour.

He then talked about the special characteristic of Abadan and said: Besides having martyrs in their own land, martyrs of Khorramshahr and Abadan share in all the other gardens and meadows all across Iran which are occupied by martyrs. No other city possesses such characteristics. This is among the honors credited to these frontier people whom have been a major obstacle in the path of the enemy throughout the revolution. Even the Arab tribes of Arvandrud were present until the Val-Fajr

Eight offensive. They bore arms, produced and worked. These people are worthy of notice and attention.

He then pointed out the problems of reconstruction of the war damaged areas and said: Indeed, we are thankful to our brother Mr. Mirzadeh. And also Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president, for issuing such a powerful decree to Mr. Mirzadeh. The lack of progress in all areas has been due to the lack of a unified and single organization. With this decree and the creation of a single and unified organization, we hope that, God willing, the problems will be alleviated. If this is not achieved, we cannot expect the refugees to return to their own province. Particularly in regard to occupations, the issue of unemployment must be the subject of special attention. The people of our villages had several sources of income—such as farming wheat, barley, cereals, alfalfa, summer crops, raising cattle and sheep, fishing, trading and boat transportation—and these sources of income have disappeared during the past 10 years.

The government and the Reconstruction Headquarters must concentrate their activities on this basis to return the people to their traditional professions. The merchants of Abadan and Khorramshahr were indeed well-to-do and prosperous. Therefore, the traditional trades and professions must be rejuvenated and rehabilitation of palm-groves must be expedited.

'Alireza Farzad, the Representative of the People of Taft: The Assembly of Experts possess a high position which is within the sphere of authority of velayat and leadership

Mr. 'Alireza Farzad from the Taft constituency was the second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He said: The Assembly of Experts possess a high position which is within the sphere of authority of velayat and leadership of the Islamic nation. The position which belongs to all of the revolution, the totality of the imam's principles, and to pure Mohammadan Islam. It has no other interpretation and whomsoever, mistakenly, weakens this position will cause the circumvention of the imam, the imam's path, the imam's revolution, velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and all values. From several months ago, moves and talks have been surfacing which give the impression of factionalism, partisanship, and attempts to eliminate a part of the forces of the imam's line from the Assembly of Experts. Following the passing of the resolutions to correct the guidelines of the Assembly of Experts, which in effect tasked the Council of Guardians with evaluating the intellectual eligibility of candidates, this impression was reinforced and it even reached a point where certain writings appeared. However, it was and still is hoped that by suitable implementation of the resolutions the equal treatment of all candidates for the Assembly of Experts is not disregarded. Recently, some very disturbing issues concerning the mechanism for endorsing the candidates have come up that compelled me to address the issue from the pulpit of the Islamic Consultative Majles. God! You be my witness that I have no motive other than fulfilling my religious duty. If such news is indeed true, then I foresee deviation in the tradition of the revolution, the line of the Imam and Velayat-e Faqih, and I am truly worried about the method of holding the elections. Is it not deviation from the revolution to eliminate the loyal disciples of the imam—those who were repeatedly endorsed by him and some of whom enjoyed 10 years of teachings of Outside of Religion and Principles taught by the imam? Is not derailing the revolution to test people who were the arms of the imam and the revolution, owe their credentials to the imam, and who have been much more talented, according to the gracious teachers of the Qom Seminary? After all, eliminating the revolutionaries and the tortured, branding the forces who belong to the line of the imam, questioning the servants of the people and those favored by the people, and factionalism will break down the solidarity of the nation and weaken the people's presence on the scene. Under the prevailing favorable international circumstances for Iran, under the conditions that our enemies are in confrontation with each other and the world-monger America has attacked the Islamic land just beyond our borders and in the days of joy and celebration of the nation, regretfully, some behaviors aimed at introducing the candidates and the news we have been hearing are very worrisome. As a soldier from among the nation, a small soldier of the honorable war and the victory of the revolution, as a family member of an exalted martyr, as a true follower of the imam and the path of the imam, as an obedient follower of the leadership of the revolution, and as a representative of people, I ask you the dear and eminent leader of the revolution to ensure that the actions of some do not result in the breakdown of our nation's solidarity, deviate the revolution, eliminate the loyal friends of the imam, and prepare the ground for the rule of reactionary and tyrannical forces. I ask the esteemed Council of Guardians to expedite the announcement of the names of the candidates. It is certain that, due to the clarity of the law, the Council of Guardians will be concerned only with the academic eligibility of candidates within the framework of being the source of emulation and separation and political and factional issues will not be of any concern—as the imam and the beloved leader of the revolution did not agree with any faction.

In another part of his remarks, he said: In objection to the self-censorship of the publications that refrained from printing the astute and valuable response of Mr. Seyyed Hamid Rowhani, the chief of the Historical Documents Center, in connection with the letter of the Society of Theological Scholars addressed to the Council of Guardians—which was aimed at discrediting the endorsements and authorizations accorded to some of the candidates by the gracious scholars of the seminary—I shall read some excerpts from both letters.

An excerpt from the letter of the Society of Theological Scholars: "With greetings, regards, and best wishes for the success of that esteemed council, based on the

information received, a number of the esteemed candidates for the Assembly of Experts have sought the endorsement of some scholars of the sacred Theological Center of Qom in connection with their academic eligibility. As you well know, one of the reasons for assigning the task of evaluation to the esteemed Council of Guardians during the recent session of the Experts Assembly was due to the possibility that some individuals may exert moral, psychological, and other pressure on some of the esteemed teachers by their persistence in order to obtain certificates of eligibility."

Excerpts from the response by Mr. Rowhani: "God is the beloved. With greetings to the Islamic notables and the honorable Society of the grand Theological Center of Qom, As Your Eminences are well aware, a sense of duty, free-spiritedness, and independence of mind are among the most valuable and instructive characteristics of the dedicated scholars and the pious clergy. The pious scholars and self-made clergy have proven and demonstrated throughout the history that they are men of duty and intellect and never bowed to gold-digging and power-hungry tyrants and others or submitted to their dictates. They never took a step, stroked a pen, uttered a word, or wrote a sentence against the will of the Almighty and considered themselves to be equal to all others in implementation of Islamic decrees. Among the most noted honors attributed to Islamic scholars, it suffices to mention that in many instances they forsook their lives, lost their head but never compromised their word, gave false witness or endorsed the lies of a lowly person. Despite this, how painful, devastating, and crushing it is that the Society of Theological Scholars of Qom in an open letter addressed to the jurists of the Council of Guardians accuse some of the honorable ones from the Qom Theological Center of succumbing to emotional, moral, and—even worse—"other types" of pressure. Indeed, how many examples of such false letters and viewpoints attributed to the scholars of the Qom Center can the esteemed writers of this letter produce as evidence that are based on emotional, sentimental, and other factors? Although viewpoints and understandings may differ, the allegations of succumbing to sentimental, moral, and other pressures is one that cannot be whitewashed with the waters of Zamzam [from the fountain near Mecca where Hagar found water] and Kawsar [a pond in heaven]. Yours truly, whose main avocation concern history, finds it necessary to present a brief recount of the inauspicious and deadly interpretations of this letter as will be judged by history. This letter is the document which demonstrates the discrediting of all writings, rulings, and viewpoints of the selfless and pious scholars, scientists, and students of theological centers and assemblies of clergies. It shall cast doubts upon declarations, letters, decrees, and their appointments or removals. In the future, by taking this letter as evidence, they will claim that all the declarations issued by scholars, teachers, and students of Qom Theological Center and other centers against the deposed shah were extracted by exertion of sentimental, moral, and other pressures. I remember the days of oppression when, despite the relentless and revolutionary struggle of scholars, teachers, and students of Qom Theological Center against the tyranny of the shah's regime—who were issuing harsh and revolutionary declarations with their clear and distinct signatures—the propaganda arm of SAVAK [the shah's secret police] was spreading rumors that these signatures are being extracted by application of force and under duress. Today, also, the same group can spread the word, by taking this letter as evidence, that declarations, adopted positions, and speeches of scholars, teachers, and other clergy in support of the eminent leadership are due to sentimental and moral pressures being applied and, even worse, "due to other types of pressure." It could be perceived that removal of Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari from the position of source of emulation was also due to sentimental, moral, and other pressure or the ballots of the Assembly of Experts were also due to moral, sentimental, and other pressures. Whomsoever questions the how and why of some of the resolutions passed by the Assembly of Experts should be indicted as a heretic would be and as he has questioned the word of a saint. However, can it be said that those clergy elements who, in the name of scholars of Qom Theological Center, accuse some members of the Experts Assembly of lying are acting to strengthen Velayat-e Faqih and the Islamic Republic regime? Don't such attitudes and methods give credence to and confirm the views of those who believe Velayat-e Faqih, the Experts, and clergy of the theological center are no more than a whip used to further the goals and personal views of some groups?

Baqeri-Nezhadianfar, the Representative of the People of Kazerun

The third pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Baqeri-Nezhadianfar from the Kazerun constituency. In his remarks he said: The scholars who back the leach-like capitalists and tyrannical tribal chieftains on one hand break the back of the messenger of God and, on the other hand, claim to support God's religion and Velayat-e Faqih. They shamelessly try to find a way into the most critical foxholes of the regime, especially the Assembly of Experts. After the great migration of the imam, hidden and conspicuous groups and trends, by utilizing all inhumane and un-Islamic methods, tried and are trying to eliminate and isolate the individuals and organizations that, due to their obedience to and high degree of their dissolving in the ideas of the imam, possessed a closer relationship with the imam and were closely associated with his aspirations. The trend which possessed the highest level of obedience to the imam and considers the weakening of the leadership as treachery to Islam, the revolution, and the people is the target of eliminating attacks and character assassinations. One of these exalted characters is Ayatollah Karrubi who, God willing, shall have the highest number of votes in the Assembly of Experts. Those who have been trained in the bosom of the West, by well-to-do and insensitive families, the phony pious or intellectuals influenced by the

West, the East, and Satan, who are now banking on their occupation of key positions that they hold in organizations and foxholes and who have never been able to or wanted to recognize and tolerate the forces of Hezbollah whose call is in the direction of Allah and Ruhollah [Khomeyni] are best advised to move out before they give away everything overnight. Otherwise, they shall all burn in the same fire which will soon burn the Satanists.

Saleh-Abadi, the Representative of the People of Mashhad: The Widespread Participation of the People in the Elections Will Result in Added Support for the Regime, the Revolution, and the Leadership

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Saleh-Abadi, the representative of the people of Mashhad. After offering his congratulations on the occasion of the start of the new academic year, he referred to the Assembly of Experts elections and the scope of its duties within the framework of the Constitution and said: We have all pledged to defend and safeguard the law. The position of the leadership is the highest there is. It is followed by the Islamic Consultative Majles which, according to the imam, is above all affairs and "the Islamic Consultative Majles is the center of all powers and decision-makings." Therefore, if the Experts elections is such that it results in the increased presence of the people on the scene, certainly, the revolution, the leadership, and the regime will enjoy wider support and the opposition to the revolution, domestically and abroad, will not be able to take advantage of the lack of people's participation and present incorrect analysis.

Mr. Saleh-Abadi then referred to two views in connection with the elections for the Assembly of Experts and said: Two aspects must be considered in regard to this issue. One aspect is that some support the recent resolution of the experts and the other one is that some criticize it. According to the recent resolution, in fact the leadership selects the members of the Council of Guardians, six qualified theologians who are considered to be good and honorable people and dedicated to His Eminence the Imam.

The new mechanism is such that, anyone who becomes a candidate for the Assembly of Experts must, so to speak, pass through the filter of these six men and the institution of the Council of Guardians. In fact, this is a filter that ultimately controls itself. Who hope that those who endorse and support this thesis are capable of presenting their reasons in circles especially composed of intellectuals and those capable of analysis or in universities, schools, and centers that are the gathering places of our brothers and sisters in this country who are among the intelligentsia and capable of analysis. Anyhow, there are many questions in this regard. The second view is one which was implemented in the past. It was such that the qualified clergy received endorsements—through various channels—from jurists, sources of emulation, and scholars and then could enter the Assembly of Experts upon election by the people. This method was a better one since it required the widespread presence of the candidates on the election scene and no one could suggest that a faction or a certain idea is penetrating the Assembly of Experts.

The speaker also noted: With the passing of the recent resolution, we have witnessed the elimination of some of the gentlemen who were endorsed by His Eminence the Imam in order to join the Supreme Judicial Council at that time, which required so-called absolute jurisprudence. Now, the same people have been asked to submit to tests. Indeed, according to the eminent leader of the revolution, the people are smart and understand. The people know who is an expert and who is not. The people know who believes in the revolution and who does not. The meaning of freedom is that we should allow all those who are qualified and dedicated to the revolution to enter the Assembly of Experts, and thus the people's participation will be unified. Then you will see that you will have a strong and powerful Assembly of Experts. But, regretfully, we are hearing that in some provinces there is only one candidate. Our slogans were independence, freedom, and formation of the Islamic Republic. One of the goals on which the Islamic Republic can be realized is the discussion about freedom in various dimensions (of course in the correct form).

In conclusion, Mr. Saleh-Abadi added: Regretfully, the prevailing impression is that the Assembly of Experts election results are predetermined. We hope that the jurists of the Council of Guardians consider the brotherly advice of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles as coming from those who are concerned about the revolution and conduct a review in connection with certain individuals.

The Session's Agenda

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the continuation of investigation of the report prepared by the commission for drawing the internal guidelines concerning the rejection of the corrective plan for some article of the internal guidelines of the Islamic Consultative Majles. After remarks by opponents and proponents and the expression of views of the commission reporter in regard to the generalities of this plan, ballots were cast and the generalities of this plan were passed.

It should be noted that, after the ratification of the generalities of this plan, the suggestion to leave it inactive was put forward by a number of the deputies which was unanimously adopted. Therefore, the said plan shall remain inactive for six months.

The next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles shall be held on Sunday of the following week.

Pakistan

National Assembly Voting Ends; Counting Begins

BK2410133390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Counting of votes polled today for the National Assembly elections has begun all over the country. Radio Pakistan has established a special booth at the Election Commission's premises for speedy broadcast of unofficial results in a marathon transmission. Besides the hourly news bulletins, Radio Pakistan will broadcast special news bulletins every hour to keep the people informed of the latest results.

Radio Pakistan's representatives from across the country report that polling was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner. Great enthusiasm was witnessed among the voters. Womenfolk took great interest in the use of their right of franchise. Polling continued uninterrupted for nine hours from 0800 this morning [0300 GMT].

As already reported, polling was held for 204 Muslim and 10 minority seats. Two candidates from the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas have already been returned unopposed. Polling was not held in NA-91 Shakargarh [constituency] because of the assassination of Mr. Mohammad Idris Taj, an IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] candidate.

'Unexpected Results' Reported in Elections

BK2510030890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Observers have reported many unexpected results in the elections. Awami National Party Chief Khan Abdul Wali Khan has been defeated in the Charsadda constituency while Pakistan Democratic Party chief Nawabzadaza Nasrullah Khan has been defeated in his constituencies of Muzaffargarh-2 and 3.

For the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, Noorani Group Chief Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorni has also been defeated in his constituencies of Multan-3 and Karachi South-2.

Former National Assembly Speaker and People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] candidate Malik Mairaj Khalid has been defeated by the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] candidate Ashiq Ali Sial in the Lahore-9 electoral constituency.

Jamiat-i-i-ulema-i-Islam Secretary General Maulana Fazlur Rahman has been defeated by PDA's Fazal Karim Khan. The caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has been declared elected for Naushahro Firoz-1. Islami Jamhoori Ittehad chief Mian Nawaz Sharif has been successful in the two electoral constituencies of Sargoda-2 and Lahore-4. Mohammd Ijazul Haq [son of former president Ziaul Haq] and Ghulam Mustafa Khar [of the National People's Party] have each been elected in two constituencies.

IJI 'Largest' Party

BK2510113690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] With the addition of the latest results the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] has emerged as the largest single party with 105 seats. It is followed by the People's Democratic Alliance with 45 seats. The position of the other parties is the following:

The Hak Parast group 15, Awami National Party six, Jamiat-I-Ulema-I-Islam—Fazlur Rahman group six, Jamiat-I-Ulema-I-Pakistan Noorani group three, Jamhoori Watan party two, Pakistan National Party two, and Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party has secured one seat. The independent candidates have secured 21 seats. We have now received unofficial results of 206 constituencies from the Election Commission.

International Observers Say Elections Free, Fair

BK2510020090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] A member of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] observer team, Justice Fakhruddin, has said that fair and free elections have been held in Pakistan. Talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN after his visit to some polling stations in Peshawar, Rawalpindi, and Islamabad, he said that no one has complained about the elections. Another member of the SAARC team also described the elections as just and impartial.

A member of the National Democratic Institute, (Berg Brinderburg), who visited the polling station in Rawalpindi, has expressed satisfaction at the election process.

IJI Figure Killed in Gujranwala Voting Clash

BK2410154890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, one person was killed and several others were injured, four seriously, in five incidents of armed clashes between rival groups during voting in Gujranwala today. According to the agency's report, Pakistan People's Party workers allegedly stabbed and killed Mohammad Ashraf, an Islamic Democratic Alliance leader and Jatianwala Union Council chairman, during a clash that erupted in connection with the establishment of an election camp at the National Assembly Constituency Number 74 in Gujranwala.

Four Party Members Killed in Voting Day Clashes

BK2410163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] According to information so far received, four persons were killed during the polling day today—one each at Gujranwala, Jhang, Okara, and Mardan. They

reportedly belonged to IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance]. Reports from Peshawar say the president of the People's Youth Organization has been arrested and weapons were recovered from his vehicle. Another report from Sanghar says Jam Mashuq Ali, a candidate, was fired upon. Two persons escaped and one was arrested. Competent sources say reports of casualties so far received are much less as compared to the casualties on the polling day in the 1988 elections.

Jatoi Asserts Elections 'Peaceful,' Praises Army

BK2410154390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that the polling for the National Assembly was generally held in a peaceful and organized manner, except for one incident in which an Islamic Democratic Alliance candidate was killed in Shakargarh. Talking informally to newsmen at Karachi Airport, he said as far as Nawabshah District [Jatoi's constituency] is concerned, no untoward incident took place and no disruption of polling was reported.

Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali, who was also present, said the polling was suspended for two hours at Thar Parkar and Sangar because of the other side's attempts to create a law and order situation. The prime minister said that the foreign journalists observing elections expressed satisfaction that the polling was held in a satisfactory and smooth manner. They also observed my constituency in detail and found no irregularity, he said.

The prime minister paid great tribute to the Armed Forces and civil police for their role. Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi cast his vote in his ancestral village New Jatoi in Naushero Feroze District.

Ready To Form 'Stable Covernment'

BK2510132990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [the Islamic Democratic Alliance] has won a clear majority with 105 seats in the National Assembly and is poised to form a stable government. Addressing a crowded news conference soon after the completion of yesterday's polling results in Islamabad today, he asked the Pakistan People's Party to receive the people's verdict with good grace as a democratic party.

President Speaks on Elections, Defense Committees

BK2510051190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the people have been provided with another opportunity to express their mandate, as, in reality, they have the right to elect their own goverment. Chatting with newsmen in the Election Commission control room in Islamabad last night, he said that although conducting elections is a very difficult task, his responsibility was to create a conducive atmosphere for the nation to exercise its franchise. The president expressed satisfaction that the law and order situation was generally satisfactory during elections.

Referring to the promulgation of Political Parties [Act] Amendment Ordinance, the president said that in principle, he is against the purchase of allegiance of the members of parliament. Referring to the disqualification of candidates, he said that after the 1988 elections it has become part of the electoral rules. The Supreme Court verdict has further stabilized its jurisdiction.

On the poll expenses by the candidates, the president said a law is already in existence to (?deal with) the candidates exceeding the prescribed limit.

In reply to a question on the setting up of the National Security Council, the president said the discussions being held on this in the press are mere assumptions. The cabinet defense committee, comprising the chiefs of the three armed forces is already in existence to consider any question pertaining to a crisis. In response to another question whether any action will be taken against those politicians who are working abroad against the national interest, the president said it is very difficult to prove any allegation of this sort.

In reply to a question on convening National Assembly session, the president said the law is quite clear on it that if the assembly session is not convened soon after the polling date, it is necessary to convene it within 30 days.

BBC Correspondent Discusses Election Results

BK2510032890 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 25 Oct 90

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] With about two-thirds of the vote counted in Pakistan's general elections, and with results still coming in, all the signs point to a major defeat for the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. Her main rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, backed by the present caretaker government, has picked up at least half of those votes. Ms Bhutto has already admitted defeat, but alleged massive ballot rigging. The spokesman for the Alliance says no one has substantiated these allegations. In the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, Lyce Doucet has been following events:

[Begin recording] [Doucet] The verdict emerging from Pakistan's general elections contradicts even the wildest predictions. Ms Bhutto's People's Party has suffered a crushing defeat. With official results still coming in, it is still not clear whether the victor, the People's Democratic Alliance, will get enough seats to form the government on its own, but they are known to have reached understanding even before the polls with other parties and independents.

Ms Bhutto admitted defeat long before most official results were in, but insisted the new parliament would have no credibility. She said she had expected fraud but not what she called massive rigging:

[Bhutto] I think we have got a moral victory, but the election has been stolen from us. The ballot boxes have been switched; instead of being opened in front of the representatives of the candidates they have been taken to the police stations; the results have been changed; there has been violence. In Peshawar, according to the results I have lost when in fact one of the presiding officers has indicated rigging.

[Doucet] There still has not been a full picture from independent sources about Wednesday's voting. There appear to have been some irregularities and some wide swings in the vote where most people expected close contests. But Ms Bhutto's rivals have said the exercise was free and fair. Hussain Haqani is one of the government spokesmen:

[Haqani] I think all of them together will decide whether it is free and fair or not. And I think so far no one has substantiated anything that Ms Bhutto has said. And, in any case, so far Pakistan's Election Commission has a very good track record. Even in 1988, prior to elections, Ms Bhutto had alleged that there would be rigging, but she won. This time it was unlucky for her that she lost, and therefore there is no reason to believe that anyone will be able to substantiate allegations of rigging because there has been none. [end recording]

Bhutto Charges Government With 'Massive' Fraud

Says Elections Rigged

BK2410193090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1924 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Larkana, Pakistan, Oct 24 (AFP)—Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto charged Wednesday that the Pakistan Government had stolen the general elections by "massive and blatant" fraud. "I am angry and shocked," Ms. Bhutto told journalists shortly before midnight, asserting that the rigging had been countrywide.

She said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had made a "mockery of the democratic process" and vowed to continue her struggle for democracy. Ms. Bhutto said that it appeared that she would get no more than 20 seats in the Punjab, 30 in Sindh and one or two in North West Frontier Province. She said that during the 1988 elections "many results had been in by 11:00 at night but almost none were in this time."

"This means they have taken away the boxes," she said. The former prime minister said that in her own constituency, 100 of her polling agents had disappeared and that they had been "bribed" or were still trying to find the election boxes.

Acknowledges Election Defeat

BK2410202890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2023 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Larkana, Pakistan, Oct 24 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto acknowledged defeat in Wednesday's elections and said the Pakistan Government had stolen the general elections by "massive and blatant" fraud. "I am angry and shocked," Ms. Bhutto told journalists shortly before midnight, asserting that the rigging had been countrywide.

She said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had made a "mockery of the democratic process" and vowed to continue her struggle for democracy. Ms. Bhutto said that it appeared that she would get no more than 20 seats in the Punjab, 30 in Sindh and one or two in North West Frontier Province.

A total of 109 seats would be required for an absolute majority in the 217-seat lower house of Parliament. "They have basically stolen the elections totally. This has happened all across the country," Ms. Bhutto said. "As far as we are concerned the assembly that will be installed is a mockery."

When asked what her party planned to do, she said "we are discussing it" and refused to be drawn out further on the issue. Ms. Bhutto, who Mr. Ishaq Khan fired on August 6 and charged with corruption and misuse of power, had predicted only hours earlier that her People's Democratic Alliance would win by a landslide. "There is going to be outrage," she warned. "The people have a right to be angry. They have been blatantly cheated on their right of franchise."

Worried on Legality, Media Bias

PM2410145790 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with Benazir Bhutto by Ariane Quentier: "Benazir Bhutto: 'The People Want Me Back'"; date, place not specified]

[Text] Early parliamentary elections are being held in Pakistan tomorrow. On this occasion, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be trying to prove that she was ousted arbitrarily on 6 August after just 20 months in power.

[Quentier] What are your feelings about the next few days, given that elections are going to be held tomorrow and that you have just been banned from holding an election rally today in Lahore?

[Bhutto] I am extremely worried. Tension is running very high, and my opponents continue to claim that they are going to defeat my party. But I believe that it should be left up to the people. And the people want me back, so it is going to be very hard to defeat me. In fact, I believe and am happy to see that our opponents are going to suffer crushing defeats in these elections. Not just in

Sind but also in Punjab. Numerous members of the present interim government are going to be defeated.

[Quentier] You seem fairly confident of the future...

[Bhutto] Yes, even if I have some fears about the legality of the ballot. There are some plans afoot aimed at obstructing the course of the elections. But I repeat that I am sure of the support that my party enjoys among the people. And even if this election is irregular, there is no way of stopping us.

[Quentier] However, your supporters have come under powerful pressure these past few weeks.

[Bhutto] Indeed, some of our friends have disappeared. Others have been tortured to extract from them false confessions which are to be broadcast on television on the eve of polling day. However, I have asked the electoral commission to monitor the media to ensure that the press and the television are not misused in order to influence the vote.

[Quentier] You have not been spared either.

[Bhutto] My opponents are doing all they can to prevent my appearing in person. They have been making use of my court appearances in Lahore. That's the only time they know where to find me, otherwise my schedule remains a secret. The first time I almost choked to death from toxic gas along my route. The second time, even though I changed my route at the last moment, such agitation was stirred up along the initial stretch that one person died and 76 were injured. Finally, on the last occasion I had to attend the court in Lahore I was unable to be present in person. The lawyer who represented me was attacked by two armed groups. It was a miracle that he escaped. As for the gunmen, they claim that I was the target but, unfortunately, I was not there... Look also at the number of armed men arrested at my rallies. The police state that they are madmen. But what surprises me most is to see how easily these madmen manage to get through the police cordons while my lawyers or bodyguards are not always allowed to join me.

[Quentier] The press is following your trial, which should enable you to clear yourself.

[Bhutto] No, because what worries me a lot is that there is always enormous publicity surrounding the trial and the offenses I am charged with, but that there may no publicity when the verdict is brought in. All the charges are completely hollow and nothing can be proved against me. My lawyers have made short work of the charges. But will the Pakistani people know that? No, because no publicity will be given. It is great injustice, intended to deprive me of the right to exonerate myself. Leaving aside the fact that the judicial authorities are under very great pressure at the moment.

[Quentier] Your husband was arrested last week. Have you been able to see him since?

[Bhutto] I saw him a few days ago. His spirits are high, even if every means is being used to discourage him. It is better to be in prison with your head held high than outside with your honor lost. Unfortunately, my election campaign is in full swing and I scarcely have time to see him. I think he was arrested in order to put pressure on me and intimidate me, and also to scare him and make him withdraw from the election and not stand in his constituency.

[Quentier] Is he going to stand despite everything?

[Bhutto] Of course, as we all are, on the appointed date.

Discusses Military, Accusations

AU2410102190 Vienna KURIER in German 24 Oct 90 p 5

["Exclusive" interview with Benazir Bhutto by Waltraud Torossian-Brigasky; place and date not given: "Benazir Is Struggling for Power"]

[Text] [Torossian-Brigasky] There were differences in opinion between your government and the military in the field of foreign policy, in particular concerning Afghanistan. Were these differences one of the reasons for your fall on 6 August?

[Bhutto] Yes, we had differences as regards the Afghanistan policy because I think that there should be no preferences and nepotism. We want peace and stability in Afghanistan.

[Torossian-Brigasky] What will happen after the elections today?

[Bhutto] It is very difficult to predict this, but if the elections proceed calmly, we expect to win voters. We have reports that a cell has formed in the president's office which will not permit any election result to be published without its express approval. This means that a candidate who lost can be announced as the winner. This could give rise to protracted contentions in court.

[Torossian-Brigasky] How could you cooperate with the military and the president after the elections and how will they be able to live with you?

[Bhutto] The question of whether or not they can live with me can certainly be answered better by others. As regards me, I will think thoroughly about how things will go on. Everything depends on the situation that develops after 2 October. Of course, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] finds it extremely difficult to cooperate with a president who dissolved an elected government, and, therefore, we would insist on the president's resignation. However, this step, too, depends on the results of the elections—whether one can form a government that is strong enough for a coalition or whether one takes a path to the opposition.

[Torossian-Brigasky] How do you assess your relations with the military? Would you make any adjustments in this respect?

[Bhutto] Well, one has to see how evidence from the past can be dealt with in the future and whether a government can work undisturbed and in a way that does not impede its functioning.

[Torossian-Brigasky] Could you imagine a future PPP government with another head of government than Benazir Bhutto?

[Bhutto] This depends on what the people of the country want. As I said before, at the moment the entire situation is unclear, but after the elections we and the party will decide on what the best course will be for us. We will examine all possibilities and we will always rely on the election results. If the PPP loses seats, this means a weakening of the National Assembly, since the people would suspect that the elections were manipulated. Before 6 August the PPP had the majority but there were problems and differences in opinion, which could not be solved and which led to dissolution. However, we in the PPP want to continue serving the people, regardless of whether we go into opposition or get the necessary majority for claiming the post of prime minister, who could also be someone else.

[Torossian-Brigasky] What do you say about the accusations of corruption, which say that you are incompetent?

[Bhutto] I reject the accusation of incompetence and corruption. My government team and I raised the country's oil reserves from an eight-day stock to a 42-day stock—if this had not been the case, gasoline would now be rationed. We worked out an education program, which envisages the founding of 8,000 primary schools, we linked 4,000 villages with the electricity network, we worked out a program to cover the people's elementary needs, and we provided many women with job opportunities. Private investments rose, foreign investments were increased fourfold. Pakistan's non-traditional exports increased by 22 percent. Our bank reserves rose by 70 percent as a result of the measures that were taken to avoid corruption. Our tax revenues rose by 20 percent. These are facts that are undisputed. Despite the enormous difficulties with which we were confronted during our term of office we are able to achieve so much. This should be duly respected.

[Torossian-Brigasky] How do you assess the current situation of women in Pakistan and what have you been able to contribute to improve their situation?

[Bhutto] The situation of women in Pakistan is not very gratifying, as you know. Nevertheless, the PPP has made great efforts to improve it, by founding various institutions, such as technical institutes where women are trained for jobs. Some programs were concluded within a record period, even though they started only in 1988. The first women's bank has also been founded in order to give working women the opportunity to obtain loans. We set down a minimum proportion of jobs for women in government positions and founded some sort of labor exchange for women. But all this is too little: We still have a long way to go.